

HEARTUOM (R) Sudan's Muslim militants accused the government Tuesday of surrendering to rebels over the issue of Islamic law and called on Muslims to take up arms against the government. Al Raya, mouthpiece of the opposition National Islamic Front (NIF), said in a parliamentary vote Monday was "a forgery and a dirty political move that shows that the government has surrendered to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)." The 301-seat parliament voted to delay a final reading of a proposed penal code based on Islamic law until the convening of a constitutional conference in which the SPLA would take part. The code was drafted by NIF leader Hassan Al Tourabi. The vote, taken amid angry protests by NIF deputies and supporters, was the latest in Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's moves to end nearly six years of civil war in south Sudan where the SPLA says it wants to end domination by the north. A Sudanese government delegation and rebel representatives ended four days of talks in Abadi Ababa Monday night with an agreement to meet again and maintain channels of communication.

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تلغراف يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي.

KUWAIT (AP) — The Arab League panel on Lebanon led by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad is scheduled to meet Wednesday. The representatives of the Lebanese Front, the last group of the warring factions that is scuffling out on peace plans to end the 14-year civil war. Sheikh Sabah has said that after ending meetings with leaders of the Muslim and Christian political blocs and militias, the Arab committee would finalize its proposals for a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Sheikh Sabah said Tuesday the committee hopes "that the Lebanese will find ... an end to the bloody conflict and fighting among the sons of one country and one nation." The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said that only one session of talks is expected with the representatives of Lebanon's Christian groups. Kuwaiti officials have not announced the names of those invited but the Lebanese daily Al Nabaar said those attending will include George Saadeh, leader of the Falange Party, Dany Chamoun, leader of the Nationalist Liberal Party, Shalckh Abu Suleiman, secretary of the Maronite Association, and George Adwan, head of another Maronite group.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

INA said they also discussed non-aggression and non-interference accords.

The four states set up the ACC in February to boost economic cooperation.

The prime ministers are preparing for an ACC summit in Cairo next month. INA quoted Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying they had nearly completed their agenda.

The agency said they discussed the nomination of a secretary general and structural and administrative aspects of the bloc.

police man responded with rubber bullets.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli teenager stabbed and wounded two Gaza Strip youths, one of them seriously. The dispute apparently erupted over a parking space, but police were checking whether ethnic anger might have been a motive.

A general strike virtually closed the Gaza Strip after the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement urged a protest against Israel's expulsion of over 40 Palestinians during the 16-month uprising.

In stone-throwing clashes in Gaza, seven Palestinians were hit by army bullets, including a 90-year-old woman struck in the left leg, reports said.

Israel meanwhile indicted two alleged leaders of the uprising on charges of membership in illegal organisations and writing leaflets steering the revolt.

Samaan Khoury, 41, a journalist, and Adnan Abdul Rahman Shalalada, 45, were charged in the Lod military court. They were

TUNIS (Agencies) — *Tunisian* President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali Tuesday appointed five new ministers, including a new minister of defence, a position traditionally held by the chief of state. Ibn Ali, since taking power in a palace coup in November 1987, has promised to bring increased democracy to his country. Nine days ago, he won 99 per cent of the vote in the first presidential elections held in 14 years. In Tuesday's reshuffle, one of Tunisia's leading human rights

King Hussein's political and special advisors, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and the directors-general of the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments as well as the commander and senior officers of the Palestine Liberation Army. The King and the guests performed Al Maghreh prayers (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

League to halt the worst civil war flare-up in four years. Police put the toll in the fighting since March 8 at 180 killed and 619 wounded.
Aoun's 20,000 mainly Christian

They called the situation in Tbilisi and other Georgian cities "extremely serious." TASS re-

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union will try to lift from the seabed a nuclear-powered submarine that caught fire and sank off Norway last week, a senior naval officer said Tuesday.

tus of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He did not recommend names but mentioned past proposals to include prominent Palestinian professors in the United States.

Rabin said he believed elections were possible within six months but that Shamir thought nine to twelve months would be needed.

U.S. solicits support

The United States is asking its allies and Arab states to help advance the Shamir proposal, according to a senior U.S. official.

The senior administration official said Washington would focus on trying to sell the Israeli proposal to its allies and Arab states as a first step towards Middle East peace.

"We are asking everyone else — Arab states and our allies — to give us a chance to develop this. There's something here that needs to be developed and this has a potential and should be developed," the official told Reuters.

(Continued on page 2)

extremity tense. LASS reported. It said the leaders called on local officials and plant managers to reject the protesters' demand and "direct all efforts at stabilising the situation."

While serving as Georgian party chief from 1972-1985, Shevardnadze called for tolerance between Georgians and ethnic Abkhazians, a minority living in the western part of the republic. In 1978, he supported nationalists on a law making Georgian the republic's official language.

Some demonstrators began protesting April 4 against calls from some Abkhazians to break

Vargin said Soviet salvage specialists were already assigned to raising the submarine.

away from the republic because of alleged discrimination by Georgians. Others demanded that Georgia secede from the Soviet Union because of alleged interference by the central government in their political, economic and cultural affairs.

Radio stations played dirges, residents wore black and troops in tanks rolled through the streets of Tbilisi, as the region mourned the people killed in the riots.

The republic's leadership declared Tuesday a day of mourning and Patsiashvili called the deaths "a common grief."

A government commission is investigating the fire aboard the vessel, which was carrying two nuclear-armed torpedoes. The blaze was believed to have been caused by an electrical short circuit.

Tanks, armoured personnel carriers and soldiers patrolled the streets to enforce a ban on public gatherings and an 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew.

Gerasimov said a general criminal investigation had been opened following Sunday's events, but it was not yet clear against whom it was directed.

RESTAURANT
Opens evening except
Mondays
Tel. 660250

Kabul troops rout assault on Khost

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan troops routed a Mujahedeen onslaught on the eastern garrison town of Khost, killing at least 200 rebels, government sources said Tuesday.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said troops took the rebels by surprise in a counter-attack and forced them to retreat in disarray.

"The area around Khost is littered with the bodies of the extremists. We have counted at least 200 bodies," one source said.

He did not mention government casualties.

The rebels launched a concerted attack on Khost Saturday, saying they had captured three military posts around the town which lies south of the besieged city of Jalalabad.

The government sources said the nearest Mujahedeen position was seven kilometres from Khost. The rebels launched a major offensive against Jalalabad March 5.

The Afghan army, relying mainly on the air force and long-range Scud-B missiles, repulsed the attack on the city which the

rebels have earmarked as a base for their rival government.

The Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah said it smashed a fresh rebel attack on Jalalabad Sunday.

The city has come under a constant barrage of artillery and rocket fire from the rebels which have halted all economic activity and forced residents to remain indoors.

The government sources said the attack on Khost appeared part of a rebel campaign to shift the fighting from Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan.

"After their defeat in Jalalabad, they want to find another place for their so-called government," a senior source said.

The Mujahedeen set up a government-in-exile in February and are seeking international recognition.

Western countries, which closed their embassies in Kabul

after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan Feb. 15, have so far been reluctant to recognise the Mujahedeen government and still maintain diplomatic links with Najibullah.

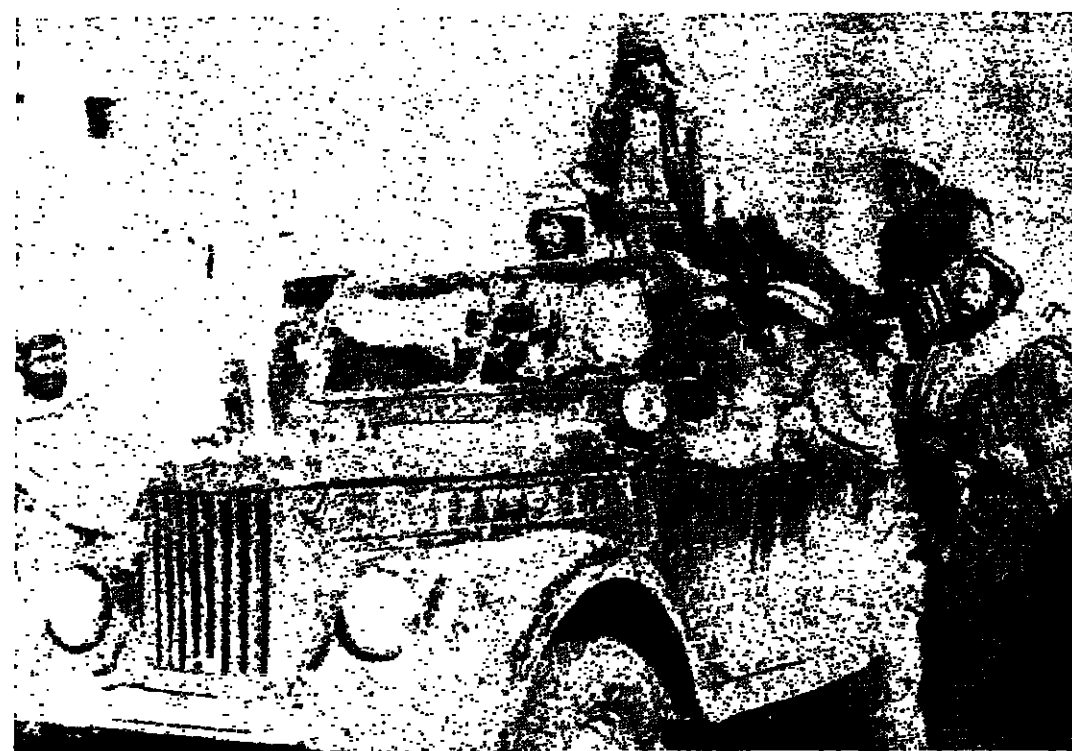
Washington has appointed an envoy to the rebel government but has said it will not recognise it until the rebels gain substantial control of Afghanistan and set up a civil administration.

Najibullah's government still controls all major cities and other urban centres although the rebels hold large parts of the country.

Afghanistan has persuaded the Security Council to schedule informal talks that could lead to an emergency session of the Afghan civil war, despite complaints by the envoy from Pakistan.

U.N. officials said consultations were to be held Tuesday afternoon and that an emergency meeting could be held after that.

The announcement came after this month's Security Council president, Soviet U.N. Ambassador Alexander M. Bononogov, met separately Monday with the Afghan foreign minister and with Pakistan's U.N. ambassador, F. Shah Nawaz.



Afghan rebels with a captured Soviet jeep mounted with a rocket launcher (Sygma photo)

Soviets await Saudi move on restoring ties

KUWAIT (R) — The Soviet Union is waiting for a signal from Saudi Arabia to resume diplomatic relations suspended over half a century ago, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov was quoted Tuesday as saying.

"There are contacts and relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and Moscow is ready at any time to exchange ambassadors and is only waiting for a clear signal from Saudi Arabia to achieve this step," he told Al Watan newspaper in an interview in London.

"In any case, our relations with them are improving, if gradually," he added.

In 1938 Riyadh asked Moscow to withdraw its consul-general af-

ter he had converted to Islam and started preaching an extreme form of the faith. He left the kingdom and was never heard of again.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are the only two countries in the Arab World not to have diplomatic relations with the communist state.

Saudi Arabia has insisted the Soviet Union must withdraw from Afghanistan before the question of ties could be discussed. The Soviet withdrawal was completed in February.

Over the past year the two countries have had a number of high level contacts. In November, the kingdom hosted negotiations between the Soviet Union and Afghan Mujahedeen leaders.

Iranians prepare for new round of talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hossein Lavasani held further meetings here Monday in preparation for a resumption of negotiations between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq.

Lavasani said last Friday, after two days of separate meetings with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the U.N. special representative for the Gulf, Jan Eliasson of Sweden, that the two foreign ministers would meet in Geneva April 20.

After Lavasani held further talks with Perez de Cuellar and Eliasson Monday, an Iranian spokesman said the deputy minister stressed the need to prevent further ceasefire violations and for the highest priority to be given to the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the internationally recognised boundaries.

Eliasson recently held similar preparatory meetings with an Iraqi delegation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq Aziz, held two rounds of direct negotiations in Geneva last year, aimed at settling the "Gulf" war ceasefire declared last August into a permanent settlement.

Denktash rejects call for demilitarised Cyprus

LONDON (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash was quoted Tuesday as saying he had ruled out a complete withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus.

Denktash, whose northern Cypriot state is recognised only by Ankara, told the Independent newspaper there had been little progress in contacts with Cypriot President George Vassiliou aimed at ending the 15-year-old partition of the country.

"We are prepared to accept

that there shall be phased withdrawals of Turkish troops (from northern Cyprus), but we must keep a sufficient number of Turkish troops in our part of the island for the security of our people," Denktash told the newspaper in an interview.

Vassiliou has insisted in seven months of talks with Denktash under United Nations auspices that Turkey should withdraw all its troops.

France backs Arab efforts in Lebanon, says no discrimination in aid

By Rania Attalla
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — In its attempt to help bring an end to the 15-year-old Lebanese conflict, France will continue to support the Arab League's mediation panel's efforts and insists that the "humanitarian help" it has sent to Lebanon be made available to all Lebanese with no discrimination, according to French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq.

"This help will be conveyed to the suffering Lebanese people without any discrimination, contrary to what has been said in the past few days," Leclercq told the Jordan Times in an interview Monday. "The best proof is that this help is coming with the agreement of both (head of the military government Major General Michel Aoun and (acting Prime Minister) Salim Al Hoss," he added.

France has sent a hospital vessel laden with what Leclercq called "basic necessity goods" and

an oil tanker with fuel oil for a power generator at the rightist-run port of Zouk north of Beirut. The two vessels were expected off Lebanon Wednesday, but a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Paris said it was not yet known where they would dock.

The French secretary of state for humanitarian aid, Bernard Kouchner, said Tuesday that France would go ahead with plans to provide the relief supplies only on condition that all parties to the conflict agreed. Kouchner, who was dispatched to Lebanon to prepare for the arrival of the ships, said he needed to hold talks with Lebanese community leaders before deciding whether or not to scrap the aid programme.

Agencies reported that Syria and its Lebanese allies have said the aid was disguised attempt to rescue Lebanon's Maronite Christian community, warning France to not allow the ships to dock in rightist-held ports.

While Hoss has not commented on France's assistance, he

has criticised the French government's policy in Lebanon saying it was "biased." He defended Syria's military presence in Lebanon as essential for security in the absence of national interest among the various factions. Hoss has also warned France against taking the Lebanese crisis to the U.N. Security Council.

Muslim leaders have accused France of siding with Lebanon's Christians, but Paris maintains that the aid is purely humanitarian.

Leclercq described the situation in Lebanon during the past few weeks as a "real tragedy" and said that France, due to its traditional links with the Lebanese people, had been "deeply moved" by the situation.

"What we feel towards the Lebanese is extreme friendship and sympathy due precisely to the common past we have had, and the still very strong links we have with Lebanon, and, I want to stress, with its various communities," Leclercq said.

Zahir Shah — past memories, future hopes

By Earleen Fisher
The Associated Press

KABUL — The limousine of the last Afghan king waits in the dust in a padlocked shed near the old royal palace. The black Daimler's tyres are flat, but the silver royal crest on the door is untarnished.

The car is an apt analogy for Zahir Shah, the 74-year-old exiled monarch whose return is discussed by Afghans across the political spectrum as a way of ending the decade-old civil war between an authoritarian government and Muslim fundamentalists.

Sixteen years after he was deposed, the ex-king remains a symbol of better days — of a time when Afghans were not slaughtering each other in horrific numbers.

The problem is finding the key to his return.

"The car is ready for him. It would be good if he came back," said a man who knew the whereabouts of Zahir Shah's Daimler but did not want to be identified.

Others are less fearful of speaking out.

"I have said openly that if King Zahir Shah wants to work for his country, he can have a positive role in bringing peace," said Wadif Safi, dean of law and political science at Kabul University.

"Even if he didn't do much for the progress of our country, he didn't kill anybody," Safi said.

About a month ago, Safi's views were published in a new weekly newspaper, Akbar-e-Hafria. The article was accompanied by the first photograph of the king that Kabul residents can remember seeing in the government-supervised media since he was overthrown in 1973.

Popularity intact

The issue quickly sold out, although its price of 10 Afghani is four or five times that of other newspapers. Even illiterate people scrambled for copies.

"All the people like Zahir Shah," said a shopkeeper who spoke on condition of anonymity. "In Zahir Shah's time, there was no killing of people."

Even President Najibullah

a former secret-police chief, has said talks with the ex-king could be useful. In mid-February, Najibullah said he had sent emissaries to Zahir Shah's exile home in Italy. A spokesman for the ageing ex-monarch promptly denied any such contact with the Soviet-style government.

The U.S.-backed Mujahedeen guerrillas, operating from headquarters across the border in Pakistan, are divided about the king's return.

Any future role for him in Afghanistan has been flatly rejected by the Mujahedeen's hard-line fundamentalists, such as Rasool Sayyaf, leader of one of the seven parties in the guerrilla alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Some of the more moderate leaders — such as Ahmad Gailani, who once served as the king's religious adviser — say they would accept his return as a constitutional monarch, a sort of living flag to help unite the Afghan people.

The king himself seems amenable to coming home.

In early February, as the Soviet Union was withdrawing

its last soldiers from Afghanistan and ending nine years of combat support for the Kabul government, Zahir Shah said: "I am prepared to render without any claim or precondition any service to my country which would reflect the will of the majority of my compatriots."

The sticky question is how to reconcile the poles-apart politics of Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), the Mujahedeen's Islamic fundamentalism and a monarchy.

The Mujahedeen refuse to deal with the party, whose communist beginnings have never taken root among the fervently capitalist Afghans. The party, whose leadership changes have come only through coup, assassination or purge, says it is willing to "share" power but will never step aside completely.

40 years on throne

In four decades on the throne, Zahir Shah proved to be a less-than-dynamic leader.

He was only 19 in 1933 when he became king upon the assassination of his father, Nadir Shah. For the next 20 years, his

uncles ran the country. In 1953, Zahir Shah's cousin, Mohammad Daoud, became prime minister and tried to push a feudalistic, tribal nation towards modernisation, by such means as bringing women out from under their all-enveloping head-to-toe veils.

In 1963, Zahir Shah finally exerted himself. Daoud resigned, waited a decade, and overthrew his cousin the king.

Five years later, in 1978, Daoud was assassinated in a coup that brought the PDPA to power with a succession of strongman leaders.

Since then, an estimated one million Afghans have been killed in the war between the government and the guerrillas. Another five million have fled to neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, leaving Afghanistan with a population of 10 million.

Throughout the war, Zahir Shah's Daimler, a car that is somehow sleek and bulky at the same time, has remained unscathed.

Periodically, it is dusted by a man with only childhood



Zahir Shah

memories of the monarchy, a man who does not want to give his name and hopes the car will remain safe until the king returns.

The Daimler waits, along with five other royal autos, in a simple whitewashed structure behind the national museum, about 300 metres from the early 20th century Darulaman Palace which now houses the Defence Ministry.

S. Yemen to revise development plans

ABU DHABI (R) — South Yemen will revise its development plans to give priority to rebuilding flood-hit areas, a government minister was quoted as saying Tuesday.

"The flood disaster is very serious as it will force us to revise economic and social development plans so priority will be given to rebuilding affected areas," Interior Minister Saleh Montasser Al Sa'ili told Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper.

He said 18 people were killed and 40 injured in the first 10 days of floods which began March 19 after torrential rain. More than 2,100 houses and 50 government facilities were damaged, Sa'ili said.

"All the aid we have received has been confined to food, medicine and other relief items but large quantities of construction material and farming equipment will be needed," Sa'ili was quoted as saying.

9 killed in Djibouti

In Djibouti, nine people were known to have died in flooding caused by torrential rains that devastated nearly three-quarters of the capital of the country,

authorities said Monday.

Patrick Millon, spokesman for the presidency, said there were fears the death toll would climb in the coming days as workers clear away the damage done by three days of heavy rain which left at least 150,000 people homeless.

Thousands of people sought shelter in schools, mosques and tents set up by the army and police who were mobilised to resettle flood victims and distribute food. Nearly half of the 4,000 French soldiers based in the former colony were assisting, Millon said.

Skies continued to clear Monday, allowing the clean-up operation to move forward.

The rain began falling Thursday, inundating the main arteries out of the capital and cutting it off. In some parts of the city, water reached more than 1.3 metres deep.

President Hassan Gouled Aptidon called for international assistance during the weekend.

France sent one relief plane during the weekend and a second, carrying 30 tonnes of rations, arrived Monday, the French Cooperation Ministry said.

3 held in killing of Shah's nephew

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Three men have been charged with the robbery-related slaying of a nephew of the late Shah of Iran, according to Mexican police.

The decomposed body of Saeed Chitsaz, a 39-year-old electronics engineer, was found March 30 in a puddle of water near the eastern end of the Tijuana River channel. He had been dead since March 8, officials said.

Police investigators said Chitsaz, a native of Iran who lived in Los Angeles, had been shot in the chest four times with a .22-calibre handgun.

Sergio Roger Espinoza, manager of a furniture manufacturing plant, was indicted as the mastermind of the robbery-murder scheme. The two others, identified by police as Armando Barón Galván and Ali Lira Uribe, face conspiracy charges.

Chitsaz, police said, allegedly confessed to ordering one of his employees to shoot Chitsaz. The worker, identified as Hector Jesus Sanchez Lopez, is a fugitive, they said.

Authorities said robbery was the motive in the killing. Salvador

Hirales Barrera, chief of the Baja California state judicial police, said the four suspects believed that Chitsaz had \$25,000 with him.

Chitsaz, nephew of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the deposed Shah of Iran, had been in Tijuana several times to discuss with Espinoza the establishing of a furniture assembly plant, Hirales said.

The Shah died in exile in July 1980 after being overthrown by Muslim fundamentalists in 1979.

On March 8, Chitsaz came to Tijuana again, purportedly to give Espinoza money to start the business.

Sometime during the meeting, Chitsaz was ambushed and his body dumped near the river channel after the four alleged conspirators divided up \$240, which was all the money Chitsaz was carrying, Hirales said.

Five days after the disappearance of Chitsaz, Hamid Reza Paharimbergh came to Tijuana to report that his uncle was missing.

Reza returned later after Chitsaz's body was found and he identified the dead man as his uncle. The was transported to Los Angeles last week.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Cairo to host int'l conference on debt

BRUSSELS (R) — Organisation of African Unity (OAU) President Moussa Traore said Monday an international conference on debt would be held in Cairo this September. Traore announced the conference during a visit to the European Community's (EC's) executive commission.

N. Yemen plans airports expansion

ABU DHABI (R) — North Yemen plans to expand the airport in its capital of Sanaa and to build a new airport in the southern city of Taiz.

No polls under guns

Continued from page 1

The official, who asked not to be identified, said he was unsure whether Washington would ask its allies to solicit Arafat's comments. French President Francois Mitterrand soon will meet the PLO leader.

Shamir: No U.N. role

At the U.N., Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir emerged from talks with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday saying he sees no need for U.N. assistance in

arranging peace in the Middle East.

Shamir, head of the right-wing Likud bloc in Israel, rejects the concept of an international peace conference under U.N. auspices.

"The secretary-general expressed the general willingness and readiness of the United Nations to help when it is asked for it, and is ready always to do something," Shamir told reporters after his 30-minute meeting with Perez de Cuellar.

"For the moment, there is not any necessity for it. If it will be necessary, we will not hesitate to ask for it," said Shamir.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
15:55	Programme on plants
17:30	Out of World
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:15	Arabic series
18:40	Local programme
19:30	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
22:10	Wrestling
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Life with Lucy
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Alien Years
PRAYER TIMES	
05:46	Fajr
06:07	(Sunrise) Duha
11:36	Dhuhr
15:13	'Asr

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 610740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628343	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
Rabbi's Congregation Tel. 822605	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
There will be a gradual drop in temperatures and some clouds will	

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
15:55	Programme on plants
17:30	Out of World
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:15	Arabic series
18:40	Local programme
19:30	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
22:10	Wrestling
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Life with Lucy
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Alien Years
PRAYER TIMES	
05:46	Fajr
06:07	(Sunrise) Duha
11:36	Dhuhr
15:13	'Asr

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
15:55	Programme on plants
17:30	Out of World
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:15	Arabic series
18:40	Local programme
19:30	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
22:10	Wrestling

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PRINCES VISIT MINISTRY: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad Tuesday visited the Agriculture Ministry where they met with the Minister, Yusef Hamdan Al Jabr, who briefed them on the ministry's activities and services and the agricultural policy pursued by the ministry. (Petra).

SCHOOL ADMISSION: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi Tuesday approved the regulations governing admission of children to the first elementary class. Under the regulations children born before Dec. 31, 1983 will be admitted to elementary schools. (Petra).

DRAWING COMPETITION: Ministry of Education has received an invitation to take part in an international children's drawing competition to be held in Greece later this year. The competition, which is open to school children in the age group 6-13, aims to advance understanding and friendship among the children throughout the world through artistic drawings. (Sawt Al Shaab).

FOREIGN COMPANIES BANNED: Minister of Finance and Customs Hanna Odeh has imposed a ban on a number of British, French, Soviet companies and establishments, which have recently been blacklisted because of their violation of the regulations of the law for the Arab boycott of Israel. Odeh also lifted the ban imposed on a number of Indian, Dutch, Canadian, Chinese, Japanese and Swiss companies and firms, after having corrected their situations and removed the violations. (Petra).

MEETING ON PUBLIC SAFETY: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud Tuesday chaired a meeting of the public safety committee, during which he discussed with the committee members issues pertaining to the environment in the Jordan Valley and public safety problems there. (Petra).

RAWABDEH CHAIRS COUNCIL MEETING: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Greater Amman Municipal Council and discussed with the council members five memoranda on the municipality's activities and the services provided by its various departments, in addition to the achievements of the various sub-committees which have been formed last month. The committee also discussed a working paper presented by Rawabdeh about the municipality's activities for the year 1990, which has been declared by the municipality as the year of culture. The committee also approved a JD 1,000 contribution to the Plastic Artists Association in support of the artistic movement in Jordan. (Petra).

HMOUD RECEIVES SPANISH ENVOY: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud had a meeting Tuesday with Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod. They discussed Jordanian-Spanish cooperation in city planning and the protection of the environment. (Petra).

100 NEW PHYSICIANS: Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Tuesday announced that 100 newly graduated physicians will be able to practice medicine in the country. These physicians are to work at the Health Ministry's primary health care centres and hospitals. (Petra).

ENVOY MEETS TUNISIAN MINISTER: Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia met Tuesday with the country's Minister of Tourism Mohammad Jigham to discuss bilateral cooperation in tourism. Jigham earlier this year paid a visit to Jordan to discuss tourism-related affairs. (Petra).

IRBID GOVERNOR MEETS STUDENTS: Irbid Governor Akram Al Naser met Tuesday with distinguished students from Yarmouk University for a discussion on socio-economic issues in the Irbid Governorate. Naser said agriculture, tourism and industry are among the main areas being developed in the course of the current 1986-1990 five-year plan. (Petra).

ORGANISING AMMAN: Greater Amman Municipality announced Sunday that it will take part in a seminar on organising the city of Amman which will be held in the Italian city of Venice. The two-day seminar, it said, will discuss topics related to the economic and social development of the Jordanian capital and programmes for future housing, transport and municipal services (Petra).

3 firms acquire facilities at Al Hassan Industrial City

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three major Jordanian establishments have signed contracts with the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) to acquire facilities at the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid, which is still under construction, according to an announcement by JIEC Director General Fayez Suheimat.

The three establishments will set up industries to manufacture boilers and cylinders, school equipment and processed food products, Suheimat said in a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily.

In February the JIEC announced that work on the infrastructure of the Al Hassan Industrial City in the northern city of Irbid was underway and that when completed the new industrial city can accommodate 80 industrial businesses.

The JIEC has built the Sahab Industrial City south of Amman which now houses 150 industries.

According to Suheimat, the Al Hassan Industrial City is located near the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), and is being set up on 427 dunums of land provided with all essential services.

Suheimat, who reported to Minister of Industry and Trade Hamud Tabbara on the situation and the progress of work, said that the JIEC was contemplating setting up industrial zones in other parts of the country in the light of growing demand on facilities for industrial businesses.

The Sahab Industrial City is home for 22 companies owned by Jordanians and foreigners including joint ventures with investors from Cyprus, Taiwan, Italy, Singapore, Canada, Austria and the Arab World.

Swedish, Syrian and Iraqi firms have wholly owned projects at the site.

VTC implements 65% of projects in 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Labour Ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has carried out 65 per cent of the projects as provided for in the corporation's 1986-1990 five-year development plan, VTC Director General Burhan Shreideh announced in a newspaper interview Tuesday.

The plan had envisaged providing vocational training to 30,000 young men and women in various trades and the construction of five major vocational training centres in the Kingdom, Shreideh said in a statement to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

As training continues at the existing vocational centres, he said, the VTC has built centres for training heavy vehicle drivers and another for providing safety precautions instructions, a vocational training centre in Aqaba and carried out expansion projects on a number of existing centres.

At the same time, Shreideh noted, the VTC is continually updating its training and apprenticeship programme especially those of auto-mechanics, building, metal works, and maintenance of heavy machinery.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition by Dr. Kamel Qa'bar at Amman Community College.

FILMS

- ★ A French film entitled "Boudu Sauve de l'Eau" at the French Cultural Centre — 8.30 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inaugurates the new premises of the Union of Voluntary Societies in Amman (Petra photo)

Queen Noor inaugurates new premises of UVS in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inaugurated the new premises of the Union of Voluntary Societies (UVS) in the Amman Governorate and toured its different sections.

The five-storey building cost JD 264,000, provided by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The Queen was briefed on the union's various services and charitable programmes.

The UVS is part of GUVS which is an umbrella for all 168 charitable and voluntary associations in the country.

At the outset of the ceremony

the Queen heard a speech by the UVS President Fakhri Bilbeisi who paid tribute to Queen Noor for sponsoring charitable and voluntary work in Jordan and her continued support for the GUVS programmes and services.

The UVS will occupy part of the building, and the rest will be leased to bring in income for the union to be used for financing its various charitable activities, Bilbeisi noted in his speech.

The union was founded in Amman in 1958 and coordinates the work of charitable and voluntary societies in the capital.

But through GUVS the UVS also helps to finance and operate

centres to provide rehabilitation services to the handicapped, special education, vocational training, health care and information services.

In child care areas, UVS has opened a children's home in Marka with the purpose of developing children's talents and useful hobbies. Nearly 170 children benefit from the Marka home on a daily basis.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan, Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib and invited guests.

Jordan to mark Arab Postal Day

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday observes the Arab Postal Day, which marks the Arab Postal Union's (APU) 37th anniversary.

The APU, which is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, was founded in 1954 with the aim of establishing stronger postal relations between the Arab countries, than those laid down by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and to pursue the development and modernisation of postal services in member countries.

On the eve of the anniversary

Mr. Ghazi Rifai, director general of the Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation, issued instructions to postal services centres and post offices to organise seminars to orient the public on the postal services in Jordan and the Arab World.

The APU, which has a membership of 21 Arab League countries, is designed to help promote postal services to promote their work and contribute to the socio-economic development of the Arab World, Rifai noted.

The postal services network in

Jordan, Rifai added, now covers all parts of the Kingdom and maintains good relations with the Arab postal services.

On the eve of the occasion the corporation announced that a number of post office branches and agencies in the Kingdom have been transformed into post offices providing comprehensive services.

It said that these offices are located at Salhoub, Qurayyat, Mikawar, Mushaqqar, Gharnata and Abu Sido.

'Jordan makes good use of Arabsat'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan ranks third among Arab countries in terms of exploiting the Arab satellite (Arabsat), after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, according to Telecommunications Corporation Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail.

He said in a statement to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily that through its ground satellite stations Jordan is making good use of Arabsat — maintaining 264 telephone channels with the Arab capitals.

Ismail, who has just returned from a meeting in Muscat, Oman, where representatives of Arab countries discussed Arabsat operations and programmes, said the meeting has decided that

Egypt must be allowed to join the Arab group benefiting from Arabsat services.

If Egypt resumes its use of Arabsat, it is bound to account for 25 to 40 per cent of the satellite's total operations, Ismail noted.

He said that the Arab Satellite Telecommunication Organisation, which operates Arabsat, has been losing \$4 million annually in the absence of Egypt which was banned from using the service after signing its peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

In the light of the Muscat agreement, Ismail pointed out, Jordan will now offer Egypt the chance to use Arabsat through the Jordanian telecommunications facilities and ground satellite stations.

Ismail said the Muscat meeting also decided that the organisation should put into orbit a third satellite to serve as a main satellite and boost the other two satellites now in orbit.

The two satellites which are being used at present could be made to serve for up to 1995 through continued maintenance and technical amendments, Ismail said.

He said by the end of 1988 a total of 16 ground stations in the Arab World were found to be using the services of Arabsat, altogether benefiting from 2,064 telephone channels and accounting for 28.5 per cent of the satellites' overall operational capacity.

UNDP ready to support ACC economic projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — As the prime ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) met in Baghdad to discuss means of embarking upon meaningful steps towards economic integration among their four countries, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced its full readiness to back all economic endeavours taken in this respect.

The UNDP representative here said in a statement that the agency will be willing to support economic projects that would be implemented in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq or North Yemen.

Dr. Ali Atiga said that UNDP would "seriously consider and thoroughly study any project that could be submitted to it by any of the four nations before steps could be taken towards offering assistance."

Atiga described the ACC proclamation, which took place in Baghdad on Feb. 16, as "a step in the right direction" and one that would speed up economic development in the four countries.

Atiga referred to the successful experiment by the European Community (EC) nations which, he said, will take a further step towards a merger in 1992 by removing all barriers between them. "It should be emphasised that economic groupings set up along the EC lines are bound to achieve success and there can be no return to the past."

Referring to Jordan-UNDP relations, Atiga said that they were excellent and constantly progressing.

At present UNDP plans to hold contacts with the concerned authorities in the Kingdom for an appraisal of past cooperation programmes and to prepare for the fifth development programme due to start in 1991, Atiga noted.

The United Nations, Atiga added, is "keen on increasing the role of its affiliated organisations in Jordan, namely: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

These agencies which have offices in Amman pursue efforts to enhance local organisations' capabilities and increase their potentials, Atiga noted.

In order to contribute effectively towards Jordan's development, he said, the UNDP has assisted the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to conduct a comprehensive survey of local scientific and technological potential, "and it is hoped that the coming programmes will boost Jordan's endeavour in these areas."

Referring to the fourth UNDP programme which started in 1988 and ends in 1991, Atiga said, it covers different human, economic and social areas as well as mineral prospecting and transfer of modern science and technology.

UNDP plans to spend some



Dr. Ali Atiga

\$10 million in these fields in the country by the end of 1991, Atiga explained.

In addition, UNDP will provide Jordan with assistance in the rehabilitation of the handicapped whose number is increasing annually by 10 per cent in contrast to the total number of population, Atiga pointed out. He said that in this respect UNDP will help to establish a new vocational training centre for the handicapped in the Kingdom.

According to Atiga, UNDP has allocated \$800,000 to help Jordan explore for oil and to plan out and organise its water resources development.

At present, Atiga noted, the UNDP and Jordan are cooperating in assessing underground water resources in the desert water basins, and providing assistance in technical training in matters related to these efforts.

Atiga said that the UNDP has earmarked \$900,000 to help the Kingdom promote its scientific and technological capabilities to speed up the socio-economic process.

Jordanian-French ties are excellent — Leclercq

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Official Jordanian-French cooperation in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields, currently valued at JD 1.5 million annually, can be further enhanced by diversification into other sectors of cooperation — sectors which would have to be identified by the Jordanian side, according to the outgoing French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq.

"It is up to the Jordanians to present us with programmes of cooperation," Leclercq told the Jordan Times in an interview this week. He said discussions between French and Jordanian officials are currently taking place for cooperation in industrial maintenance. Cooperation in the medical sphere, which was suspended for a number of years, is expected to resume in the near future, he added.

Leclercq described the overall relations between Jordan and France as "excellent." At the highest level, he said, relations between His Majesty King Hussein and French President Francois Mitterrand are "friendly and confident."

He noted that during the past four years, King Hussein has made at least one visit to France annually in addition to the state visit in February 1987. "This is a good indication of the status of relations (between the two countries)," he said.

Another good sign of the understanding and mutual confidence between the two countries is the development of cooperation in the military field, the ambassador said. He pointed to the exchange of personnel on both sides where Jordanian officers are sent to France on training missions and French officials visit Jordan for similar purposes.

The current trade exchange between the two countries is at a good level, the ambassador said, despite the existing "imbalance"

in the trade relation. "France sells (products to) this country more than it buys (from it)," he said. "Working on this imbalance is a necessity," he asserted. France mainly buys potash, phosphate and chemicals from Jordan.

"We are not so sure the Jordanian side is as happy (about the trade imbalance)... and we understand that Jordan would like to see more balanced relations and would in particular welcome French investment in the country whether directly or in the form of joint ventures," he said.

A mission from the French Ministry of Industry is due to arrive in Jordan soon to identify sectors in which cooperation could be developed and where French companies would find investment opportunities, the ambassador noted.

So far, two joint projects have been set up between Jordan and France in the form of direct investment: the Jordanian-French Insurance Company in addition to the Middle East Insurance Company, established by Jordanian parties with the participation of French capital.

Asked whether he thought developing further commercial relations between the two countries is a responsibility of the private or public sector, Leclercq said first the problem had to be assessed and understood at the governmental level on both sides. After that, and when things materialise, it is up to the private sector to take the initiative.

The ambassador expressed satisfaction over the fact that the French language had acquired an added importance in Jordan as the second foreign language after English. French experts were instrumental in launching Jordan Television's one and a half hour French programme, he said. At present however, the programme is run entirely by Jordanians.

French assistance is also provided in universities, and private schools and is expected to make its imprint in public schools soon. Official assistance is also provided to the Royal Jordanian Geographic Society, the Marine Station in Aqaba and other areas, according to the ambassador.

The French are also closely involved in archaeological projects in Jordan. The French Institute of Archaeology in the Middle East is now permanently based in Amman, Leclercq pointed out. A centre for research and studies on the contemporary Middle East was opened in Amman last month.

On the professional level, Leclercq expressed satisfaction with his tenure in Jordan. To him, Jordan presents an exceptional location for following events in the area. Frequent talks with Jordanian officials and easy access to those in responsible position make Amman an interesting and stimulating milieu for work.

The outgoing ambassador leaves his post in Jordan to become head of the Middle East and North Africa section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"I suppose that I will now be in charge of this department at the ministry because I was able to send interesting information to Paris, information which was read with great care," Leclercq said.

Between 1979 and 1981 Leclercq served as diplomatic advisor to the then French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing before moving to Montreal to serve as consul general to Canada until 1985.

Jordan receives anti-locust spraying equipment from U.K.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Britain has joined a number of other friendly nations in providing Jordan with facilities and equipment to fight off an expected locust invasion during the present spring season.

The gift, coming from London, was a set of anti-locust spraying equipment manufactured by Micronair U.K. Ltd.

Altogether six kits have been supplied including one that has been fitted to an aircraft owned by Arab Wings. The others were fitted to helicopters and Royal Jordanian Air Force planes.

One particular advantage of the Micronair system is that the installation and removal are possible in a relatively short time.

British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve visited Marka Airport Tuesday to inspect the anti-locust equipment.

He was met by the director of the Studies and Research Department at the Ministry of Agriculture which is undertaking the task of combating the desert locusts. Last week the Ministry of Agriculture announced that it received from Japan a gift of five vehicles especially designed to help combat the danger of the desert locusts.

West Germany and the United States are among the other nations, which along with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, have provided in kind assistance to the Kingdom in the fight against the dangerous pest.

The ministry, he said, that more than \$2 million will be needed to cover the cost of equipment and pesticides required to fight off the pest, and issued an appeal to various countries and organisations asking for help.

Tarawneh inspects civil defence services

SALT (Petra) — Civil Defence Director General Lieutenant General Khaled Tarawneh Tuesday inspected the civil defence services in the Balqa region and was briefed on operations.

Tarawneh met with senior Civil Defence Department (CDD) officers at the Balqa centre and discussed with them matters related to providing a 24-hour service to the local community.

The CDD's centre in Balqa was established at Buhaira district, near Salt, at the cost of JD 400,000, and is housed in a three-storey building supplied with all essential equipment and facilities for fire fighting and rescue operations.

Tarawneh later called at Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley for an inspection of the CDD services there.

QOU to start operations in October

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Quds Open University (QOU) will finally open its doors for students in October 1989 at the start of the 1989-1990 academic year following a long delay and intensive preparations, according to University President Walid Kamhawi.

A great deal of problems have been overcome and more are still to be tackled in technical matters, funds and recording facilities among others, Kamhawi noted in an interview published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Tuesday.

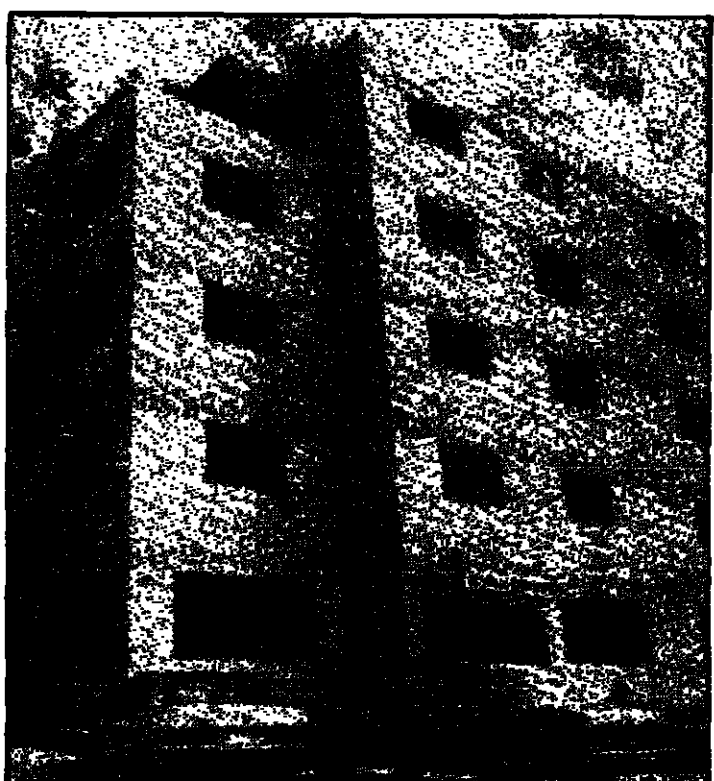
The university headquarters situated in Amman will be the first of its kind in the Arab World to provide distance education.

It was initially aimed at Palestinians living under Israeli occupation and whose education is being disrupted all the time by the Israeli authorities.

According to Kamhawi at a later stage the QOU will provide higher education services to Arabs who had missed the chance to enroll as full time students in the Arab World.

The QOU faces the problem of creating its own audio-visual studios for recording educational materials and also preparing the programmes with the help of highly specialised personnel, Kamhawi noted. He said both these processes cost a lot of time and money.

According to Kamhawi the QOU will provide courses that benefit the socio-economic development in the Arab World. These will include applied sciences, electronic and mechanical engineering and informatics, land and rural development, manage-



Al Quds Open University headquarters in Amman (File photo)

ment education and in service teachers training, as well as Arabic and English languages, computer sciences and others.

The QOU will enable people to obtain their education while earning a living wherever they are regardless of age, academic achievements or living standards. As to the fees, he said, students will be required to pay between 30 and 50 per cent of the fees normally paid to other universities in Jordan.

QOU will open provincial centres in Jordan and there will be tutors who will follow up the progress of each student.

The project was initially financed by the Palestine National Fund but later the university started receiving assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Safe and sound

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's message to the country through the directors of banks and financial institutions Sunday that the official round of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund has culminated in Jordan receiving a clean bill of health from the IMF on its fiscal and economic policies, is a good omen. Paramount among the findings of the IMF, after a thorough examination and perusal of Jordan's financial condition, is its verdict that the current exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar is both realistic and appropriate.

This is the kind of message that Jordanians of all walks of life have been impatiently waiting for ever since the beginning of the financial and economic adjustments in the country last fall. The judgment of the IMF that all is well and sound in Jordan due to the Government's economic and fiscal policies is an additional vindication of these policies and serves as yet another evidence that the measures the country is taking now to rectify the economic and financial situation in Jordan are on the right course. Now Jordanians can sigh with relief. But what is even more important they are called upon to continue their endeavours to help the Government and the country to overcome the economic and fiscal hardship in more earnest ways than ever.

Over and above the assurances from the IMF, Jordan has still to undertake a medium-term programme of economic adaptation that would include, inter alia, the adoption of financial, monetary and investment policies that aim at achieving a balanced economic growth through reduction in the budget deficit, improving the balance of payments and increasing the foreign exchange reserves. One of the basic ingredients of such an ambitious programme is of course the creation of a favourable climate for savings and investments. In this vein, the Government needs to adopt measures to encourage savings such as offering the public Government bonds which earn tax free interest. Almost all governments in the world adopt such schemes to generate savings and its high time that we in Jordan resort to such inducements to create sizeable savings. If necessary the Government may contemplate also the policy of exempting all saving accounts at domestic banks from taxation as an encouragement to domestic savings. To be sure there are many other avenues open to the Government to encourage domestic savings and the way to go about it is to think boldly and imaginatively. Now is the time to introduce such bold ideas and policies and to flush out stifling policies and guidelines.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday discussed the meeting underway in Baghdad by prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The meeting can be considered as an important step towards implementing the objectives of the economic grouping which was formed in Baghdad on Feb. 16, 1989, the paper noted. It said that Jordan is taking part in the meetings with added self confidence backed by reports that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has endorsed the country's economic, financial and monetary measures that are steering the nation on its right course. Needless to say that the success of the corrective measures can be attributed to the King's wise leadership and directives, to his government and also to the relentless efforts of the Jordanian people who are now merging their economy with those of the three Arab countries, the paper noted. Not only is Jordan putting its home in order, said the paper but the country is also on its way to bolster inter-Arab economic cooperation and heading towards progress and prosperity.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the government to approach the Egyptian authorities about the prospect of allowing Jordanian students in Egypt to pay for their fees in Egyptian pounds rather than hard currency like the dollar and sterling. Salah Abdul Samad says that a great number of Jordanian students are now acquiring higher education in Egyptian institutions draining the Kingdom of valuable foreign currency, and Egyptian workers living and working in Jordan are also transferring to Egypt considerable amounts of foreign currency each month. The writer says that in view of the present economic situation in the Kingdom the Egyptian workers ought to be allowed to transfer only part of their earnings here and the Egyptian authorities should be approached about the prospect of allowing Jordanian students to pay in Egyptian pounds. This idea could be put into practice, the writer notes, in view of the very strong relations between Egypt and Jordan and in the light of the ongoing process of integrating the two countries economies.

Al Dustour daily referred to a statement by visiting team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which told the government that the Jordanian dinar's value is very realistic and there was no need for any further adjustments. The paper also referred to the team's endorsement of the Jordanian government's measures which it said had been instrumental in steering the national economy towards its sound and correct course and leading the country towards progress. The paper said that the IMF team's report is tantamount to an international certificate testifying to the soundness of the Jordanian measures and one that can only enhance the Jordanian people's confidence in their currency. The paper said that the IMF report will no doubt contribute very favourably towards stimulating the national economy and will give further momentum to the relentless work of the Jordanian banks and public and private sector in the development process.

War on the economic front

By Riad Al Khouri

WAR in the traditional sense among the great or near-great powers is no longer possible. It just isn't feasible for troops armed with nuclear weapons to go striding into enemy territory. Whatever their differences, the Americans and the Soviets are not about to bomb each other, nor will China invade Japan or West Germany march into France. Of course violence in the Third World is still unfortunately very much with us. Civil and not so civil wars rage in the Middle East and elsewhere, sometimes with the direct support or at the instigation of the rich industrialised states. But the big boys themselves do not usually wage war these days, at least not with guns and tanks. Today's warfare is instead conducted on a purely economic level. It's much less noisy but nevertheless important, both to the great powers as well as the Third World. A dramatic example of this phenomenon has been the on-and-off wheat war being fought between the U.S. and the European Community (EC). In the days before World War II, agricultural and mineral production was associated with colonies or other areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their output was shipped to the rich North in exchange for manufactured goods which could not be produced in the less developed South of the globe.

Today's pattern of international trade has shifted; the dismal fact remains that, with the exception of a handful of commodities, the North produces most things more cheaply and sells them to a Third World which is inefficient and otherwise feeble. The latter in turn often piles up debt (like Mexico and Brazil) or is plunged into one form or another of chaos, as in Chad and Kampuchea. Outside of East Asia, where people prefer rice, wheat and related grains are the world's most important source of food. The EC and America have been big exporters of wheat for some time. Both areas produce a vast surplus of grain, and have been trying to export the stuff with increasing ferocity, hence the wheat conflict. Three decades ago the same producers were embroiled in a "chicken war," with large numbers of mass-produced frozen

birds coming on to the international market. The last ten years have seen a cars and electronics conflict being fought by Japan against Europe and the U.S. The wheat war is simply economic competition among the rich industrialised states, a conflict in which it is inconceivable that a single shot will be fired. The United States and Europe produce all kinds of agricultural commodities using very sophisticated techniques in genetic engineering and other high technology areas. They also produce on a large scale. Of course this picture is not one of unmitigated cheer. Both the Americans and the EC have problems in their agricultural sectors. U.S. farmers are going through a crisis, while agricultural policy is a source of conflict among EC members. Still, enormous amounts of food in general and grain in particular are available in both regions for export. And the richer these countries get, the more they produce. But prosperous folk tend to spend a decreasing percentage of their income on food, and so the surpluses get bigger. Where does all this excess production go? To the Soviet Union for one, where whatever else Communism may have achieved since 1917, food production is still not enough for the country's needs. A bit of surplus ends up in areas of war and crisis as humanitarian aid, but these amounts are really quite unimportant.

Increasingly, EC and American food is being sold to the Third World, and the Middle East and North Africa in particular. On the surface this should be good news for everybody. The rich countries unload their surplus and the poor benefit from cheap food. Unfortunately the picture is more complicated. For a start, the Europeans and the Americans both complain loudly about the others encroaching on their traditional markets. The French for example like to think of Algeria as "theirs" as far as trade is concerned, but increased American commercial activity in and export to the country have been disabusing France of this notion. In the Middle East, Egypt imports grain from France, but here too the Americans have been moving in strongly. The U.S. now

supplies the wheat and flour for most of the bread consumed in Egypt, and this is incensing the Europeans. French politician and EC Commissioner Jacques Delors was recently quoted as saying that it is "unthinkable" for the EC "to renounce its position as a green power" drawing comparison with the Arab countries "giving up the extraction of oil." The Europeans hit back by pushing American wheat and fodder out of the Spanish and Portuguese markets to the point where the U.S. threatened reprisals. And so it goes. The trade conflict in general and the food war in particular will probably intensify, with more surplus wheat and other products flooding international markets while politicians and bureaucrats on both sides of the Atlantic hurl abuse at each other. But what about the recipients of this bounty? Should poor peasants in Pakistan be happy to get cheap wheat and other foodstuffs from the rich? Yes, up to a point.

However, one of the unfortunate side-effects of wheat wars may be the weakening of the rural sector in the Third World. Unable to compete with cheap imports, farmers flee the land to urban areas. The countryside stagnates and cities become overcrowded, unpleasant and inefficient. Meanwhile the supplier of foreign food gains a stranglehold over the Third World importer, the shortest way to the mind and heart of a starving Sudanese or a less hungry Egyptian may be through his stomach. Self-sufficiency in food is uneconomic in a lot of places, but this doesn't mean that the rush away from the Third World countryside should continue. The Middle East in particular suffers from the resulting lopsided development, with cities mushrooming at the expense of a stagnant rural sector. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East are using various methods including subsidies and regional planning to encourage farming and rural settlement. Such activities have met with some success, but more needs to be done. If not, the alternative will be further rural disruption, urban difficulties and most of all a terrible dependence on food imports.

South American democracy faces test

By Kevin Noblet
The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — South America's social and political fabric, loosely woven at the best of times, is fraying in these most difficult times.

From bloody protests in Venezuela to disruptive strikes in Brazil to spreading guerrilla influence in Peru and Colombia, the symptoms of widespread discontent are making themselves dramatically evident in this year of crucial elections in six countries.

Wracked by seven years of crushing indebtedness and recession, the continent that began the 1980s in the flush of a democratic renaissance is ending the decade weary and frustrated.

Few foresee doom, but many warn of deepening gloom that could become politically explo-

sive. "The misery, the depressing conditions of life, the lack of food, housing, health, training, education and jobs create a culture dish that can be exploited by 'ultras' and extremists of whatever tendency," Argentine President Raul Alfonsin warned recently.

President Jose Sarney of Brazil sees leftist extremists making gains.

"Democracy is losing ground in Latin America because the solutions it has presented do not attend to national problems," he said in a recent interview with the Associated Press. "We offer pessimistic solutions, and the parties of the left optimistic ones."

Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina will elect new presidents next month. Uruguay, Brazil and Chile will do so by year's end.

It should be a time of renewal and democratic reaffirmation, but there's no sense of celebration. At best, there's a feeling of having held off defeat.

"The democracies, one way or another, have managed to survive," said Jose Joaquin Brunner, academic coordinator at the Santiago-based Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences.

He said in a recent interview that the simple fact that elections were being held is a sign that all is not bad.

"It wasn't a given (accepted fact) that the new democracies were going to become strong quickly," he said.

He added, however, that the combination of tender democratic institutions and an economic crisis "is a very explosive mixture."

Since 1978, a mostly moderate

political leadership has directed the transition from military dictatorship to democracy in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. It has taken the unpopular path of austerity, curbing imports and limiting spending on public services, in wrestling with South America's \$277-billion foreign debt.

The social cost has been high. Public hospitals and schools are understaffed and disrepair, their equipment antiquated or broken down. Overworked state-hospital doctors in Brazil make the equivalent of about \$130 a month; in Peru about half that.

University professors commonly hold two or three jobs to make a subsistence wage in most countries. High-paying employment is hard to find. Stories of architects and physicists driving taxis are common.

Even in Venezuela, whose oil wealth kept it largely immune to the economic ailments afflicting its neighbors, real wages are slumping dramatically. There is a growing shortage of basic consumer goods, with supermarket shelves empty for the first time in 30 years.

Increases in bus fares and the prices of some basic consumer needs led thousands to riot across Venezuela in late February. By official count, 276 people were killed and thousands injured. Unofficial accounts put the death toll at 300 to 500.

The political cost of the economic and social unrest in South America overall is likely to be seen in the upcoming elections. Incumbent leaders and their parties are behind in the polls in several countries, including Argentina and Bolivia. Sarney and Peruvian President Alan Garcia are besieged by critics.

Some challengers are employing strains of populism or nationalism reminiscent of the 1940s or '50s. While disturbingly familiar to some older South Americans, they may appeal to a new generation only beginning to learn about democratic processes.

Death of emperor spells end of era for Okinawa

By Eugene Moosa
Reuters

NAHA, Japan — When Emperor Hirohito died in January, few tears were shed on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa.

"Our reaction was cool," said Eiko Asato, a writer of Okinawan affairs. "After all, he was the emperor of the Japanese, not of us."

Okinawa, a semi-tropical island closer to Shanghai than Tokyo, has always viewed itself as separate from the Japanese mainstream.

In a country which prides itself on racial and cultural homogeneity, the Okinawans speak a different language and have a different heritage from the rest of Japan.

Hirohito was a focus for much of the hatred and disillusionment felt by Okinawans as a result of their experiences in World War II.

The Japanese army fought a pitched three-month battle against the American invaders, forcing the Okinawans to fight rather than accept surrender. More than 100,000 Okinawans — then about a quarter of the total population — lost their lives, thousands committing suicide.

The emperor never apologised and the people never forgot. Many Okinawans waited for decades for a visit by the emperor to apologise for the conduct of his soldiers during that time. A visit planned in 1987 was called off when he fell ill.

"He could have come so many times... but the conservative Japanese establishment was too afraid of us, that the Okinawans would rise up in arms or something," said Moniteru Arasaki, Dean of Okinawa University, in an interview during a recent visit.

"The emperor wouldn't have come here anyway because he probably felt guilty," said Shioichi Chibana, an Okinawan activist currently on trial for the 1987 burning of a Japanese flag, an act that shocked the nation.

"He must have also remembered the fact that he sold away the entire island to the Americans, after the war," Chibana said.

The diaries of Hirohito's former grand chamberlain, Sukemasa Irie, published recently, said in 1948 Hirohito offered Okinawa to the United States on a semi-permanent basis as a token of gratitude for not allowing the

Russians or Chinese to split Japan into different occupation zones like Germany.

Okinawa remained under U.S. military rule until 1972, when it was returned to Japan. The island's people never fully came to terms with U.S. rule nor the present Japanese administration.

The United States now stations about 40,000 U.S. military personnel on the island, including a full 22,000-strong marine division.

With its long stretches of untouched coral reef and white sandy beaches, Okinawa has become a major domestic tourist attraction for the Japanese. Last year, 2.39 million non-Okinawan Japanese visited the island, or about twice its population.

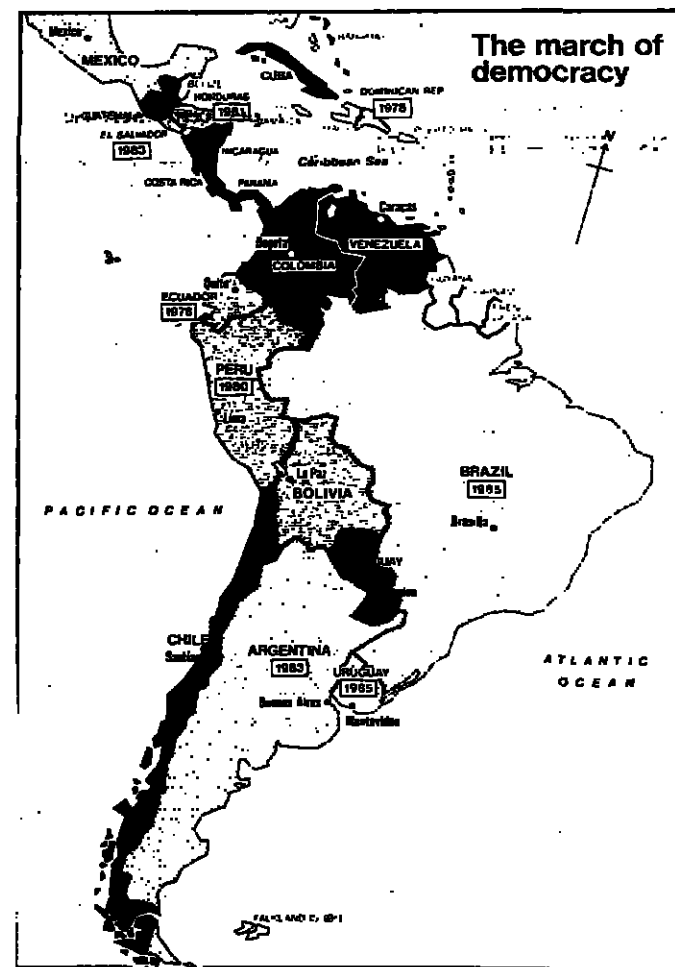
Hirohito's son, Emperor Akihito, came in 1987 as Hirohito's personal envoy, but his words of atonement left many Okinawans

unsatisfied. "I feel deep sorrow and pain when I think of the large number of people, including civilians, who fell victim in the last war," Akihito said in a speech.

The Okinawan village of Ohgi-Son was the only local government in Japan to reject the public holiday called for Hirohito's state funeral on February 24. There were no incidents, but the village hall stayed open.

Many opinion leaders like Chibana and Arasaki speak of a search for a new identity for Okinawans in the post-Hirohito era, including occasional references to independence or applying for official status as a minority.

There is a revival in interest in traditional Okinawan culture and music, and a new awareness of the need to preserve the natural landscape.



JORDAN MARKET PLACE

For all your:

Packing,
Air Freight Forwarding,
Customs Clearance,
Door-to-door Service,
Ticketing and
Reservation needs,
please call:

AMIN KAWAR & SONS

Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street
Shmeisani
P.O. Box 7806
Amman, Jordan
Tel. 604676, 604696

CROWN
INT'L EST.

packing, shipping,
forwarding,
storage, clearing,
door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090, 660852
Tlx: 22205 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 828487
AMMAN JORDAN

THE NAME
YOU TRUST

TOP QUALITY
HOUSEHOLD
APPLIANCES

Electrolux

SHMAISANI AMMAN
TEL 604671

TO ADVERTISE
IN THIS SECTION
CALL

667171/6-670141/4

Ext. 223

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Ahliah Girls School
Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 638968

慕堂餐廳
MANDARIN
Chinese Restaurant

The only typical Chinese
cuisine in Amman.
Chinese Flaming pot is available
Take away available

Open daily 12:00 - 15:30
18:00 - 23:30

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic
Bridge
Amman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

CHEN'S
CHINESE
RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for
Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214
Come and taste our
specialities

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30
p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

CHINESE
RESTAURANT

TAIWAN TOURISMO
Authentic Chinese Food

Korean Bar-B-Q
Charcoal Flaming Pot
Take-away service

Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m.
& 6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle
opposite Akilah Hospital
Tel: 641093

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in
1-Hour Service
Develop your colour film at
our shop and get:

JUMBO photo
the 30% larger

Free enlarger
about 20 x 30 cm

Stockist: Opp. Grindlays
Bank, Phone: 604042
Switchboard: 823891



"UNRWA has adapted itself to changing need of Palestinian refugees."



UNRWA learns to cope with intifada

The uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories has galvanised the Palestinian people but also caused disruption in the relief work of the United Nations agency UNRWA.

By Masood Haider

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The relief operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza have been disrupted extensively in an indirect outcome of intifada, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

United Nations and diplomatic sources detailed examples where UNRWA operations at virtually all levels were hit. It's the second major crisis for UNRWA in recent years. Three Palestinian refugee camps run by UNRWA in Lebanon were under siege for more than a year until a Syrian intervention ended that crisis. But dozens of refugee men,

women and children were killed during the siege and hundreds more injured.

In the occupied territories the problems are more complex, and diplomats doubt whether UNRWA, used to serious dislocations since it started work in December 1949, can cope with the new situation.

"UNRWA has adapted itself to changing needs of Palestinian refugees," an official said recently. But diplomats point out that while the needs of the Palestinians essentially have not changed in recent years, the Israeli response to the uprising has made the job of meeting those needs extremely difficult.

The agency operates also in Syria and Jordan, but it is in West

Bank and Gaza where its operations face the greatest challenge. UNRWA stepped up its health and relief programmes in response to the crisis created by the extended Israeli curfews and placed its facilities at the disposal of local groups and foreign relief organisations active in the areas.

The uprising started in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip, following months of smouldering unrest which culminated in the killing of a Palestinian schoolgirl in Gaza Nov. 10, 1987.

On Dec. 9 — just over a week after the 40th anniversary of the 1947 United Nations resolution calling for the partition of Palestine — a truck driven by an Israeli swerved into a line of cars carrying Arab workers back to the Gaza Strip from their jobs in Israel. Four Palestinians, including refugees from Jabalia camp, were killed in the accident.

The following day, demonstrations broke out throughout the strip, and three Palestinians were

shot dead by Israeli soldiers. Over the next week, live ammunition, as well as rubber bullets and tear gas, were used to break up the demonstrations and 12 more Palestinians were shot dead in the Gaza Strip.

The protests spread to the occupied West Bank, starting with Nablus, where an 18-year-old boy was killed Dec. 10. The same day, Israeli police swooped through the Balata refugee camp, next to Nablus, destroying property and beating residents in their shelters. During a protest against the police action the next day, troops killed three refugees — an 11-year-old boy, a 17-year-old girl and a 57-year-old woman standing in front of her shelter.

"Our impression is that the unrest has been dealt with in a way that may serve to create more turbulence rather than improve security," UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli said during a recent visit to the area.

Giacomelli said he was concerned over the disruption of agency services, particularly the education programme. UNRWA has some 243 schools with over 127,000 pupils and four training centres with over 2,000 students. These were not functioning for the better part of four months, either because they were closed (by the Israeli authorities or by the agency as a precaution) or because of curfews and other restrictions on camps, town and villages.

The curfews, combined with sympathy strikes by shopkeepers which started in mid-December, began to cause shortages of basic food supplies — particularly bread and milk in some areas. The strikes and curfews also combined to prevent tens of thousands of refugees from travelling to their regular jobs or going to look for work.

UNRWA responded by expanding the supplementary feeding and milk-distribution pro-

grammes in the Gaza Strip to reach an additional 36,000 mothers and children and by making special distributions of bread, powdered milk, flour and other commodities when the curfews were lifted.

However, the local and international agency staff were often denied access to camps under curfew. UNRWA sanitation and supplementary feeding services were also disrupted.

UNRWA's field offices in Gaza and West Bank found themselves called upon to deal with situations beyond the normal scope of the agency's education, health and relief activities. UNRWA health centres, particularly in the populous and crowded Gaza camps, received casualties from clashes between refugees and army patrols.

The injuries ranged from gunshot wounds to suffocation from tear-gas to traumas induced by beating. UNRWA clinics were put on double shifts, staying open

until late evening. Agency medical staff worked round the clock and extra hands were called in. Above all, as the uprising continued and the Israeli authorities persisted with a hard-hitting crackdown, UNRWA officers and staff were called upon to meet international obligations to the refugees by stepping up their monitoring and reporting.

Extra international staff were brought in by UNRWA to help deal with the crisis. Extra vehicles and radio networks were ordered. The field offices in Gaza and Jerusalem went on an emergency footing.

An informal meeting of 23 governments and the European Community in Vienna in March reviewed developments in the occupied territories and endorsed UNRWA's actions to expand and extend feeding and medical services.

While supporting also the provision of assistance to non-refugees on an emergency basis, the

Vienna meeting cautioned that this should be done in a way that does not jeopardise UNRWA's regular programmes. Delegates asked UNRWA to try to obtain funds for improvements in the crucial areas of housing, health care facilities, sewage disposal and water treatment.

The meeting agreed that UNRWA should pursue plans to develop further small income generating projects. It noted that for more far reaching projects, because of UNRWA's experience in the region, the agency should act as a catalyst and focal point.

But diplomats stress that the difficulties faced by UNRWA are considerable. In a recent meeting, Giacomelli reminded participants that "W" in UNRWA stands for works programmes which were intended to create employment for refugees. Under current conditions, however, job creation schemes are all but ruled out — Academic File.

New emphasis on new energy sources

By Kevin Costelloe and George Boehmer
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT — The 1973-74 Arab-led oil embargo taught industrialised countries the need to diversify energy sources. The latest lesson may be spurred by the "Greenhouse effect."

Western industrialised nations and Japan have been using less oil in recent years than during the boycott, while other sources of energy have increased. Coal and natural gas use has risen sharply.

"It's important basically to keep diversifying first the energy mix that one consumes — and also ensuring that one is prepared to deal with a supply disruption if and when it were to occur," George Kowalski, an economic analyst at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris, recently told reporters.

"In the current context, oil is the most vulnerable source of the supply."

While fuels such as coal and natural gas can replace oil in many uses, it remains the No. 1 source of energy for transportation.

The IEA says that in the late 1970s, the agency's 21 member countries depended on oil for one-half or more of all energy requirements. Now other fuels meet nearly three-fifths of IEA energy requirements.

One important energy source to watch is nuclear power.

"We would expect that at least for the next 10 to 20 years, despite the fact that the rate of increase in nuclear capacity may decelerate somewhat, it will still be one of the fastest growing sources of supply for the OECD," Kowalski said.

The 24-nation organisation for economic cooperation and development includes primarily Western European nations, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States. The OECD formed the IEA after the 1973-74 embargo to coordinate "energy security."

Most of the increase in nuclear energy is due to plants started in the 1970s, since it takes a decade or more to get a plant into operation. In addition, accidents at America's three mile island nuclear plant and the Soviet Union's Chernobyl facility have raised public outcry about the safety of atomic energy and led utilities to cancel plans for many new plants.

Still, Kowalski says increasing concerns over the global warming trend called the "Greenhouse effect," apparently are leading to a more positive attitude toward nuclear energy.

Much of the warming trend is due to the burning of oil and other fossil fuels, which spill massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat.

"One can detect, even now for example, in North America parti-

cularly, a gradual shift in perception of the nuclear issue," Kowalski says.

7 per cent increase

The West German Association of German Electricity Works (VDEW) reported in March that European Economic Community countries increased their overall nuclear-generated electricity output by 7 per cent in 1988 from the year before.

In Italy, the Enso Oil Company and the National Board for Nuclear and Alternative Energies say concerns about the greenhouse effect may force the country to reconsider returning to nuclear power.

In November 1987, Italians voted in a non-binding referendum to put a moratorium on nuclear power development. The three completed nuclear plants are presently idle. Plans were halted for the construction of four others.

France slashed its petroleum imports from nearly 2.9 million barrels a day in 1979 to 2 million per day in 1987, the IEA said. Hassan Salman, of the French Industry Ministry's energy observatory, cited increased nuclear power use and greater energy efficiency as major reasons.

France, which is not an IEA member, leads the world in nuclear energy production. About 75 per cent of the electricity generated in the country comes from nuclear power.

Other fuels have helped to diversify energy sources. The IEA says coal consumption was up by more than 6 per cent in 1988; natural gas use rose by about 4 per cent.

Japanese officials say oil produced 55.2 per cent of the nation's energy in 1986, but predict a decline to 45 per cent by the year 2000.

Alternative forms

"Studies have said that we'll run out of oil in about 40 years from now, so we have to find some alternative forms of energy to replace oil," said Hiroyasu Morita, an official of the oil division of Japan's agency of natural resources and energy.

He said nuclear, solar and wind, and geothermal energy were the most dependable energy sources for the post-oil era.

However, Kowalski said such experimental energy sources as solar and wind probably will not make much impact in the next 10 to 20 years. He also sees little chance of nuclear fusion making any contribution in the next two decades, even with a massive research breakthrough. Fission now accounts for all nuclear energy production.

Any new developments are unlikely to have much effect on transportation soon, since motor vehicles and aircraft remain so heavily dependent on petroleum.



The calligraphy class in session at the Zamana Gallery.

Twisting a calligrapher's tale for children

London children are being introduced to the joys of calligraphy — Arabic style.

By Maureen Ali

LONDON — "Once upon a time there was a famous calligrapher who was very rich and very successful, but he was also very unhappy." Thus the story began to unfold before a wide-eyed group of nine-year-olds, who sat enthralled as this exotic tale of the East developed.

The children, 13 boys and girls from a North London school, had just had their first introduction to the Arabic script. Drawing the letters *alif*, *bey* and *waw* with thick felt-tipped pens, they had then made an initial attempt at Islamic calligraphy.

The boys and girls from the Rhodes Avenue School in Haringey were the first participants in a series of workshops organised in tandem with an Islamic calligraphy exhibition at London's Zamana Gallery in South Kensington.

The workshops, ran through the end of March, were designed primarily to create opportunities for children to explore calligraphy. For most of those attending, this was their first exposure to any aspect of Islamic culture.

When the story finished, the children were encouraged to compare their design efforts with those of the experts, including the

famous 16th century Ottoman calligrapher Sheikh Hamdullah and his successor, Hafiz Uthman. The work of both masters featured in a Zamana exhibition of calligraphy from across the Islamic world that lasted from January to March.

The story teller, British writer and actress Wendy Stone, devised workshops to include drama, dance, art and music. Her specially written stories were formulated to promote audience participation. The North London group responded readily, interacting enthusiastically, volunteering for the story's many parts and proffering suggestions on how the scenario should develop.

As the tale unfolded, the children learned that wealth and fame are not everything — that in fact, these can often lead to sorrow. The main character in Stone's narration, the calligrapher, has lost touch with reality and has long forgotten the virtue of compassion for his fellow men. He is a tormented soul, haunted by the nightmare of a riddle he cannot solve, the riddle of true happiness.

Since he has alienated all those with whom he has come into contact, including his only daughter, there is no one that he can turn to for help. It is thanks to the

goodwill of the daughter and the help of a humble weaver whom her father has maltreated that balance is restored and peace returns to the calligrapher's household.

The story provided a blend of fantasy and reality which captured the imagination of the group. Stone's ability to hold the attention of her young audience, draw out their responses and keep their mounting enthusiasm in check is owed to years of experience conducting workshops for all ages.

Stone is a firm believer in learning through experience and in sharing cultures. She has travelled extensively in the East, researching and preparing her story material. Several of the tales will soon appear as a book.

"I see the workshops as a unique opportunity for the children to explore another culture and open up new interests," she said recently. "This hands-on approach whereby they try calligraphy and then look at the exhibition helps to feed them into Muslim culture in an active way."

Though the underlying aim of the workshop was to open up ideas and create understanding, its main asset as far as the children were concerned was that it was fun. The Haringey group were unanimous in their verdict — they loved it. They said they would like to know more about

Muslim culture and Islamic calligraphy and were keen for their class teacher to pick up the workshop educational packs.

Though this was the first group to participate in the Zamana programme, such was the response to the idea that extra workshops were scheduled to run with the calligraphy exhibition until the end of March. Many schools requested that Stone visit them on their own premises in order to benefit from the programme.

According to Zamana director Jane de'Athe, the idea has proven to be so successful that workshops will now become a permanent feature of the Zamana calendar. There will be at least four children's workshops for every future exhibition at the gallery, and possibly more if the response continues to be as good as at present.

"This is what I feel we should be providing, as a gallery and a culture centre," de'Athe told Academic File. "The workshops encourage contact with young children who can benefit so much from this type of introduction to different art forms. The proof is that we have had many more schools coming to this exhibition than we had first imagined — one or two schools virtually every day. I hope very much that we can expand on this potential in the future." — Academic File.

Strawberries, strawberries

By Frances Kerry
Reuters

LEPE, Spain — Strawberries have turned Spain's joke town into a boom town.

Lepe, a small town in the southwest near the Portuguese border, is inexplicably singled out for national jokes depicting its inhabitants as hopelessly stupid.

Now it is up and coming as the heart of an industry which last year made Spain the world's largest strawberry exporter.

"We don't mind the jokes, so long as we're doing well," said Fernando Almansa, manager of Sol Lepe, a large fruit firm.

"The young people have jobs, people have moved here, there's a lot more money around."

He estimated that total investment in strawberries in Lepe has been around \$100 million over the past five years.

In the 1987-1988 season, Lepe produced about 40,000 tonnes of strawberries, most for export — a sizeable part of Spain's production of 210,000 tonnes and exports of 118,000 tonnes.

The strawberry boom, which took off five years ago, has done for this scruffy, traditionally poor corner of Spain what tomatoes did for the bone-dry southwestern province of Almeria.

Residents say there is almost no unemployment, in sharp contrast to parts of southern Spain which have a jobless rate well above the national average of around 19 per cent.

The key to success has been winter crops, with strawberries picked as early as January to tempt northern Europeans more used to the fruit as a June luxury. It almost never freezes in Huelva province, the temperature is a mean 20 degrees centigrade and the air is moist but rain rare.

The plants, which cover a quarter of Lepe district's cultivated area, are mostly imported from California, grown from seed in northern Spain and replanted in October or November.

The strawberry fields have spawned dozens of support businesses — shops selling plastic coverings, irrigation tubes, packing cases and fertilizer mingle with strawberry warehouses lining the highway which skirts Lepe.

The town's main square is smartly painted and recently rebuilt. Streets which in less

prosperous days had a couple of bars and a few small grocery stores boast clothes and domestic appliances shops, supermarkets and a beauty salon named "strawberry".

The fields around Lepe, which has traditionally cultivated figs and almonds and also fished from the sea five kilometres away, are thick with the low-lying green plants.

Local farmers have taken to the relatively high technology business — plants are carefully embedded in plastic covered earth "wells", well drained and irrigated through drip tubes which also feed in fertiliser — like ducks to water, said Lepe's socialist Mayor Jose Angel Gomez.

Local determination, mule-like stupidity in the rest of Spain's "Lepe jokes", was as important as the climate in reshaping the landscape, Gomez said.

"You had to have people who were prepared to take risks, put their money into this."

He says farmers reaped profits of about one third of the \$30 million income from the 1988 crop.

But labour unions complain the boom may be fine for local farmers, many of them smallholders grouped in a cooperative, but it is not benefiting workers, especially about 20,000 who flock into the region on temporary contracts for the picking season.

"There's no question there's money around. But some of the workers who come in from outside are treated like black cotton pickers in America in the old days," said Agustín Gomez of the farm section of the general workers union, Spain's biggest union.

He sees the plight of strawberry pickers, mostly from the northern part of Huelva province and the neighbouring provinces of Seville and Cadiz, as all too typical of "Jornaleros" or day labourers who work the harvests across southern Spain.

They often work the season solely in order to claim unemployment benefit for the rest of the year, he said, adding even this provides an average monthly income of around \$226 a month, just over half the minimum wage. Legally, the pickers should be paid \$20 for a seven-hour day, and if they stay for more than three weeks, should be given free accommodation.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

BODY ROCK
Starring
Lorenzo Lamas

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NJLOUM

STRIKER

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

SOME THING WILD

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Egypt initiates new stealth price increases

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has launched a new round of economic reforms designed to please foreign creditors but bound to be unpopular at home, Western economic analysts said Tuesday.

The sources said Egypt has raised domestic prices on electricity and some oil products by 30 to 40 per cent in a move long urged by the U.S. government and the World Bank.

The April electricity hikes have not been announced by the government of President Hosni Mubarak, which is worried that dramatic overall price shifts could spur unrest of the sort that caused havoc in Cairo and other cities in 1977.

The sources, who did not want to be identified, said Egyptian officials had protected low income groups from a jolt by staggering the hikes according to consumption levels.

Most of the burden of electricity rate increases, due to appear on bills at the end of the month, was placed on industries rather than home consumers.

NEC unveils world's fastest supercomputer

NEW YORK (AP) — NEC Corp. of Japan Monday announced the world's fastest supercomputer, a machine that can carry out more than 20 billion operations per second.

NEC's SX-X series will be so much faster than American-made machines that U.S. commercial and government customers may feel they have no choice but to buy the Japanese machine, said George Lindamood, an analyst at the Gartner Group consulting firm in Stamford, Connecticut.

"I imagine there will be some fairly severe government wrangling in Washington as a result of this one," Lindamood said.

The SX-X series will go on sale in the July-September period of 1990, NEC said. That is about the same time Cray Research Inc., the Minneapolis-based world leader in supercomputers, begins delivery of its Cray 3 models.

NEC said the SX-X series can attain peak vector speeds of 20 billion floating-point operations per second. Floating-point operations are high-precision calculations on rows and columns of numbers.

In contrast, the Cray 3 is expected to perform up to 16 billion operations per second, Lindamood said.

The computers are being sold in North America by HNSX Supercomputers Inc., a Massachusetts-based marketing company jointly owned by NEC and Honeywell Inc. They will range in price from \$5 million to \$23 million and will use a version of the Unix base layer of software.

Cray Research did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment on the NEC chip.

The other major U.S. supercomputer maker is Control Data Corp.'s ETA Systems Inc. In Japan, competitors include Hitachi Ltd. and Fujitsu Ltd.

NEC has a big advantage in supercomputers because it is the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer and can make its own high-speed logic chips.

In contrast, Cray relies on Japan's Fujitsu for the central logic chips in its Cray Y-MP line. The central logic chips for its Cray 3 line will come from a small company, Gigabit Logic Inc. of Newbury Park, California, Lindamood said.

Abdullah said. Many political analysts connect a growing current of Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt to rising prices, a severe housing shortage and poor job prospects.

Zealots have focused on economic problems to bolster their argument that a secular government cannot solve Egypt's ills, including a \$43 billion debt.

Creditors like the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. government and the World Bank argue that subsidy cuts are necessary to create a balanced and self-sufficient economy. They have linked aid to reforms.

The new electricity rates have helped clear the way for the release of \$133 million in U.S. grants to energy sector projects this year, Western sources said. A further \$200 million will be made available in the coming two years depending on further reforms, they said.

The funds are part of \$2.3 billion in annual civilian and military aid from the U.S. to Egypt.

One source said the World Bank had promised to release \$150 million as a result of the price rises.

Small consumers of electricity, using 100 to 950 kilowatt hours per month, will pay a seven per cent increase according to the new measures, while high-end personal consumers will face hikes of up to 20 per cent, the sources said.

Industry will receive higher charges of 35 to 40 per cent. The average overall increase in electricity rates was 30 per cent, the sources said.

Diesel fuel, kerosene and fuel oil went up by about 40 per cent as of March 24.

A spokesman for the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) said kerosene increased to seven piastres (three cents) per litre, while diesel went up to 6.5 piastres per litre. Fuel oil jumped to 35 piastres (\$14) per tonne, the EGPC spokesman said.

Treating people as adults

"The normal man in the street will be appalled by the fact of prices going up, though he doesn't understand it. People should be treated as adults,"

To halt smuggling, support the economy

Turkey opens official gold market

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey opened an official gold market Monday to halt smuggling, support the economy and place the country on the map as a centre for the metal.

The central bank, which brokers the market, set an initial gold price of \$382.25 an ounce, only slightly higher than international spot prices in Europe.

"The new market will kill smuggling and enhance international standards in gold investments in Turkey," Yaman Toruner, head of the central bank's money markets and funds department, told Reuters.

"In the next year we will place Turkey on the world map as an international trading centre for gold, just like the London or Zurich bourses," he said.

"Since we cannot employ ex-

smugglers as gold dealers in the central bank, let them start selling chickens," Toruner added.

In trials since March 28, the central bank sold a total of 1.5 tonnes of gold on the screen-based market to authorised dealers, which include 11 banks and six foreign exchange offices.

Gold is traded on the market against foreign exchange. It can then be sold on the domestic market for Turkish lira.

The opening of the market had an immediate impact on gold prices in Istanbul's unofficial Kapiharsis (covered, bazaar) market, dealers said.

They said bazaar prices fell to \$12,350 a kilogramme Monday, \$65 above the Zurich price. The gap has been reduced from up to \$300 since March 28.

Dealers on the new market said

Kuwait's Gulf Bank increases profits

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Bank has joined three others in Kuwait in announcing increased 1988 profits, confirming a trend toward a second year of greater bank earnings in Kuwait. Gulf, the country's second largest bank, said profit rose 8.4 per cent to 7.7 million dinars (\$26.6 million) from 7.1 million (\$24.4 million) in 1987. Kuwait's commercial banks began showing increased profits in 1987 after a slump of several years caused by low oil revenues and bad loans. Of the country's six banks, only Al Ahli Bank declared lower profits for 1988, while Burgan Bank has yet to report.

World Bank lends Algeria \$211 million

ALGIERS (R) — The World Bank has lent Algeria \$211 million for projects designed to stimulate economic growth, the official APS news agency has reported. The money is repayable over 15 years with a five-year grace period at a variable rate of interest, currently 7.72 per cent. A loan of \$143 million will help repair 340 kilometres of track for trains carrying steel, phosphates and cereals, \$14 million will go towards an irrigation project involving construction of four large dams and some small ones and \$54 million will be to improve professional training.

Oil firms halt supplies to Ireland

LONDON (R) — Esso and Shell have halted petrol supplies to the Irish republic in retaliation for the government's freeze on prices. The companies said they acted because the government was forcing them to sell petrol at a loss. A Texaco spokesman said his company was keeping the situation under review. The three companies supply about 60 per cent of Ireland's petrol but Finance Minister Albert Reynolds said he did not expect early shortages. The government, which is due to meet the oil companies Thursday, said the suspension of supplies by Esso and Shell was "totally unacceptable." Petrol in Ireland costs the equivalent of \$3.90 a gallon and is among the most expensive in Europe. The freeze was imposed March 31 to prevent the oil companies introducing rises of 11.50 cents a gallon in line with increases in Britain. The government feared that higher prices would damage its efforts to curb inflation.

GCC oil ministers to meet April 26

NICOSIA (R) — Six Gulf Arab oil ministers are to meet in Saudi Arabia April 26, an official of their regional organisation has said. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) official at the GCC's Riyadh headquarters said by telephone the ministers of OPEC states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar and non-OPEC producers Oman and Bahrain will meet in Jeddah. The ministers are expected to coordinate stands on price and production levels ahead of a June meeting of OPEC.

ADB lends Ethiopia \$211 million

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The African Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to lend Ethiopia \$211.5 million to finance 29 projects in agriculture, transport and communications, the official Ethiopian News Agency has said. It gave no details of the loan repayment terms.

Iran to tap Qatar's North gasfield

NICOSIA (R) — Iran plans to develop part of Qatar's huge North Field gas reservoir that extends into its territorial waters. "We plan to develop it very soon," Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh was quoted as saying by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES). The North Field, with 380 trillion cubic feet of reserves, is considered the world's biggest single concentration of natural gas. Aqazadeh told MEES that seismic surveys by a Dutch firm showed the reservoir extends at least 12 miles into Iranian waters and therefore about 30 per cent of the whole structure should lie on the Iranian side. Iran made its first claim on the field last month. Qatari officials have so far not commented. "The Qataris must be concerned... but if the field extends to Iranian waters as they claim, there is nothing they could do to stop them (the Iranians) constructing their platforms," an oil industry source said. Oil industry sources in the Gulf said a confrontation between the two states was unlikely. Qatar might cooperate with Iran on developing the field if Tehran could substantiate its claims, they added. Qatar has started to develop the North Field and is expected to complete the first phase in late 1990, producing around 800 million cubic feet of gas per day for local use.

18 new aircraft to cost Gulf Air \$1b

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Air said Monday it would pay \$1 billion for 18 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft over the next five years, nearly doubling the size of its fleet. Gulf Air spokesman Abdulla Abdul Karim told Reuters the deal would comprise 12 Airbus A-320s and six Boeing 767-300s. This would be in addition to four Boeing 767-300s recently bought by the airline and would boost the number of aircraft in its fleet to 41 from the current 25. Two ageing Trident 600s are to be withdrawn between April and June 1989 and the airline would take an option on the purchase of a further 18 aircraft, six Airbus A-320s and 12 Boeing 767-300s, Abdul Karim said. The new purchases would be financed by loans but details had yet to be worked out, he said.

EIB lends Jordan \$2.8m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Small and medium-scale revenue generating investments by local authorities in Jordan are being supported with European Currency Units (ECU) 2.5 million (about JD 1.5 million or \$2.8 million) from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Community's bank based in Luxembourg. The finance, in the form of a global loan, will be used by the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) to lend to local municipalities.

The loan, from the bank's own resources (mainly from borrowing on capital markets), is for 15 years at 6.2 per cent taking into account a two per cent interest subsidy in the form of a grant drawn from European Community (EC) budgetary resources. CVDB specialises in providing finance for investment by municipal and village councils. The EIB's finance will go to schemes such as technical workshops, slaughterhouses, commercial stores, and truck stations.

Iraqi minister predicts strong OPEC in June

BAHGDAD (R) — Iraq's oil minister said Tuesday he hoped OPEC would reach an agreement on prices and possibly higher output quotas for the second half of 1989 at a planned meeting in Vienna on June 5.

Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told Reuters in an interview that the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) generally agreed that the output ceiling set last November should be raised.

"We will wait to see how the market will behave in April and May... but I am sure we will come out strong in June and we will again have an agreement by all members," he said.

OPEC agreed in November to limit its production to 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d) to boost prices and allocated equal output quotas of 2.64 million b/d to Gulf war foes Iran and Iraq.

Chalabi said it was too early to discuss how individual limits might be adjusted, but he made clear that Iraq would insist on retaining parity with Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait have sought higher quotas claiming their current limits were too small in relation to their production capacity and reserves.

Oil prices have risen almost \$7 a barrel since OPEC's November pact as world output fell on OPEC adherence to quotas and some production problems arose elsewhere.

Middle East benchmark crude Dubai, selling just below \$10 a barrel in November, was on sale in Tokyo Tuesday for \$16.80.

Chalabi said Iraq wanted OPEC to maintain its target price of \$18 a barrel for the rest of 1989.

He also said Iraq was abiding by its quota despite an increase in export capacity as repairs to war damage brought some Gulf terminals back into operation.

Iraq has started exporting refined products in small quantities from Zubair port in the northern Gulf. Oil industry sources in the Gulf said it also planned to export crude from Zubair but the amounts would be small.

Chalabi said he hoped OPEC members would stick to their output limits in April and May. A Reuters survey showed that OPEC members Iran, Kuwait and the UAE produced above their limits in March and put total OPEC output at 19.71 million b/d, more than one million b/d above the OPEC ceiling.

Supply minister clarifies food price rises

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current rise in the prices of locally produced agricultural products, including vegetables and fruits, is due largely to an increase in exports which fetch higher income, Supply Minister Fayez Tarawneh said in a statement published in the local press Tuesday.

Tarawneh said that local farmers are now exporting larger amounts of vegetables and crops to neighbouring Arab countries thus relatively reducing the amounts which are now reaching the local markets.

But Tarawneh said that the ministry is now examining the situation to try to achieve a balance. "The Ministry of Supply has set up a committee to study the situation and to propose solutions," he noted.

At the same time, the ministry is keeping watch on prices to prevent any manipulation or violations of ministry regulations and is imposing penalties on violators, Tarawneh added.

In the course of its action, the ministry has closed several stores that sell meat and poultry for their violation of the ministry regulations, the minister said. He added that the Ministry of Supply is now importing seven aircraft loads of fresh beef and 13 aircraft loads of mutton on a weekly basis to meet the growing demand.

Complaints

Distribution of meat and chicken around the country is going on well and the ministry will consider any complaints raised by the public in this matter, Tarawneh emphasised.

Referring to the supply of poultry meat, the minister said that apart from the imported frozen chicken, the ministry is now trying to boost the work of the local poultry slaughter houses in Amman and Duleil and to encourage poultry meat production by all possible means.

New tender

The Ministry of Supply, Tarawneh noted, is studying the prospect of floating a new tender to import 2,500 tonnes of frozen poultry meat to meet the local market's needs after the holy month of Ramadan. He said that the ministry has sufficient poultry for the needs during Ramadan.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, April 11, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	84.7 85.4
Pound Sterling	913.3	921.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	405.5 409.4
			Dutch guilder	253.3 255.9
Deutschemark	285.8	288.5	Swedish crown	84.0 84.8
Swiss franc	324.1	328.1	Italian lira (for 100)	39.0 39.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	136.5 137.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	1.6980/90	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8825/32	Deutschemarks
	2.1230/40	Dutch guilders
	1.6605/15	Swiss francs
	39.40/43	Belgian francs
	6.3530/80	French francs
	1379/1380	Italian lire
	132.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.4000/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8275/8325	Norwegian crowns
	7.3165/3215	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	384.80/385.30	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Investors seeking bargain-priced resource stocks helped the All Ordinaries Index rise 2.2 points to 1,415.5.

TOKYO — Prices closed with strong gains in moderate trade. The Nikkei Index finished up 250.56 points at 33,249.58.

HONG KONG — Share prices retrieved early losses in thin sluggish trade as bargain-hunters moved in afternoon. The Hang Seng Index rose 4.57 points to 3,026.00.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Industrial index climbed 9.46 points to a post-crash high of 1,201.43, breaking the previous post-crash high of 1,194.63 set March 29. Turnover also reached a new record of 123.9 million shares.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed mixed on institutional selling pressure. Tata Steel rose 37.5 rupees to 1,312.5 on record output and hopes of higher profit.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking whittled away early gains. The Real-Time 30-share Dax Index peaked at 1,375.12, a point short of its 1989 high, and closed at 1,369.35, a gain of 10.13.

ZURICH — Company results supported the market but interest and inflation worries tempered enthusiasm. The All-Share Swiss Index Gained two points to 1,027.8.

PARIS — Early gains on Wall Street and optimism about interest rate trends boosted share prices and volume. The CAC General Index rose 1.5 point to 456.6.

LONDON — Interest rate fears receded but volume was low. The FTSE 100 index rose 6.3 to 2,031.3.

NEW YORK — Blue chips firmed in a market helped by institutional interest in technology shares. At noon, the Dow Jones Industrials stood 12.10 points higher at 2,313.97.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consisting of one bedroom, lounge with central heating, terrace and 250 square metres in area on third floor.

Located near the First Circle — Bishop's Street, near the Al Jamil Pharmacy.

Tel: 638969

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Any qualified firm or organisation is requested to submit a proposal for contract to design and conduct a major national consumer research survey. Interested parties may contact the MBS Project Office, c/o Health Office, USAID, 4th Circle, Amman, to obtain related documents.

All proposals must be submitted to USAID by April 26, 1989 to be considered.

RANGE ROVER FOR SALE

Excellent condition, model 1985, two doors, blue colour, 62,000 km.

Duty unpaid — price JD 6,000

Call Bruno 641254

CAR FOR SALE DUTY UNPAID

1985 German Ford Sierra 1.6. 4-door, grey colour, excellent condition, radio-cassette stereo.

Phone 661437 / 825984

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Furnished or Unfurnished

In Shmeisani, Sweifieh, Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call Wael Real Estate at 685342

"NOTICE"

AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION FOR PURCHASING (40) PHOSPHATE HOPPER WAGONS TENDER NUMBER 1/89

Aqaba Railway Corporation announces that it has made the deadline for accepting offers for tender number 1/89 12 o'clock, Tuesday 6/6/89 instead of Wednesday 3/5/89.

DIRECTOR GENERAL MARDI QATAMIN AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION

Wilander lusts after number one ranking

VIENNA (R) — Despite two more Davis Cup defeats at the weekend, Mats Wilander has scotched suggestions that this tennis career is on the wane.

He insists he is as strongly motivated as ever. He wants to regain the world number one ranking from Ivan Lendl and is banking on a tough programme of physical training to help him do it.

"My appetite for tennis is back. I want to be number one again." The world number two told Reuters during the weekend Davis Cup quarter-final tie against Austria in Vienna, which Sweden won 3-2.

In 1988, Wilander had the most successful season by anyone on the men's Professional Tennis Circuit for years.

He won three of the four Grand Slam titles — the Australian, French and U.S. Opens — and the international players' championship in Key Biscayne, Florida, one of the top non-grand slam events.

In addition, he led the Swedes to their sixth consecutive Davis Cup final with two shining semi-final singles triumphs against Frenchmen Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte.

Then everything went wrong. "Mats suffered from shin splints and took a break from tennis after the U.S. Open. He simply has not been getting enough match training," explained his long-time coach and friend, Jonte Sjogren.

One reason for not being match tough is that the Swede has not survived the early rounds. He has lost nine of his 14 matches since November and has been dethroned in Australia, Key Biscayne and by Lendl in the world ranking.

The most stinging defeat was perhaps by lowly Carl-Uwe Steeb

in last December's Davis Cup final when Wilander led two sets to one and held match point in the fifth set. Steeb's triumph helped West Germany to a 4-1 victory.

Against Austria, Wilander went down in five sets to Horst Skoff in six hours four minutes which was almost an actions replay of the Steeb defeat.

In the final dead singles, after Stefan Edberg had secured a Swedish triumph, a tired and disinterested Wilander lost again — to 106th ranked Alexander Antonitsch.

Despite the apparent continuation of his poor form, Wilander insisted the tie was a step in the right direction.

"The match against Skoff was useful for getting my clay tennis going. I played well. I just need to get back my edge."

Sjogren's comeback recipe has included something Wilander, who admits he tends to be lazy, was not used to — hard physical training.

He has undergone weightlifting and workout sessions for several hours a day with American Joe Breedlove, a trainer who used to help Martina Navratilova.

"It's been tougher than I expected, but I feel stronger than before and I thoroughly enjoy working with Breedlove," Wilander said.

Sjogren is optimistic.

"It's looking better any day. The clay season is coming up now and Mats should get plenty of match training. Nobody can promise three Grand Slam titles in one year, but I'm certain he will be in the running."

Wilander has come a long way since he won his first French title in Roland Garros at age 17 in 1982 as a monotonous clay baseline.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Police investigating Tyson after scuffle

LOS ANGELES (R) — Police were investigating Monday allegations that world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson struck an employee of a Hollywood nightclub during an argument over a parking spot. Michael Devine, a car park attendant, told police the altercation broke out early Monday morning after Tyson and two others drove up to the club in a white Mercedes and pulled into a parking space reserved for somebody else. "One of the passengers struck the victim (Devine) three times in the abdomen" with the back of his hand, Los Angeles police spokeswoman Marge Reid said. "The victim identified that person as Mike Tyson." Reid said police were investigating whether to charge Tyson with misdemeanor battery and were hoping to question the fighter in connection with the incident. In 1987, Tyson was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and battery for an incident in which a man was struck in the car park of a Los Angeles theatre. The charges were dropped after Tyson paid the man an unspecified amount of compensation.

Austrian tennis star undergoes operation

VIENNA (R) — Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster, injured in a freak car accident last month, underwent a successful two-hour operation on his left knee here Tuesday, a hospital spokesman said. The operation to repair torn ligaments on Muster's knee was performed by Austrian specialist professor Johann Poigenfuerst. Muster, semifinalist in the Australian Open earlier this year, became the first Austrian player to reach the top 10 in the ATP rankings after beating France's Yannick Noah in the semifinals of the international player's championships in Key Biscayne, Florida on March 31. Two hours after his triumph Muster was pinned under his tournament car after it was rammed head-on by another car as he was removing his kit from the boot outside a Miami restaurant. He returned home to Vienna with his leg in plaster after doctors decided he should not be operated on at once because of danger of infection from superficial cuts.

NHL rejects bid for team by Soviets

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — An overture for a National Hockey League expansion franchise, supposedly made on behalf of the Soviet Ice Hockey Federation, has been rejected by the league as unworkable. Ramon Dacysyn, executive vice president of Intercon Sports Inc., the agency that negotiated the release of Soviet player Sergei Priakin to the Calgary Flames last month, made the proposal last month to League President John Ziegler and NHL Players Association Executive Director Alan Eagleson. Under the plan, which Dacysyn said was made on behalf of the Soviet Hockey Federation, a team stocked exclusively with Soviet players would compete in the NHL as a 22nd franchise. He said it would divide its home games between Moscow and a North American city — either Seattle or Hamilton, Ontario — and would play the standard 40 away games.

Campbell suspended

CHICAGO (R) — Former world indoor hurdles champion Tommie Campbell has been suspended for 90 days by the U.S. Athletics governing body for refusing to take a drug test in February, the Chicago Tribune reported on Tuesday. Campbell, who won the indoor hurdles title in 1987 and earned a bronze medal in the 110-metre high hurdles at the 1988 Olympics, told the newspaper he was suspended because he refused to take a drug test following an indoor meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, on February 5.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: In decision, combined with dissatisfaction, makes it difficult to begin and to finish what has already been started. You may want to change what you do when caught in a cycle of self-doubt.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may meet someone out of the past who has been long forgotten. Keep informed and get all the facts. You cannot stand to be second best.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) First love is a lasting affair. Plan for self-development and add educational research and artistic talents to the list.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A burden is lifted when a high energy project is completed. Keep doors open for change, commitment and advancement.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your career gets a boost. Money solutions come. Patience with a home situation will allow things to mature and make sensible choices.

Pisces (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Long range plans clarify. Versatility can lead to realizing a creative dream. Status regarding a romantic situation remains obscure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You lose control when you allow fate to direct your destiny. Contact with older people can be financially rewarding.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Compliments result from a job well done. A close friend seeks emotional support. Hang loose and avoid getting overly involved.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A learning cycle starts. Plan for self-development and add educational research and artistic talents to the list.

Gemini (May 21 to June 21) The focus is on romance, unique ties and upbeat friends. Romantic tendencies attract others to your camp. Creativity is high on the list.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A relationship is nearing the "should I or shouldn't I" stage. Give attention to an important matter.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Intense output of energy has you wondering if life is all work. Ironically, it may be your playtime that is draining your energy system.

Virgo (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Decisions over a legal matter need further review. Be direct in dealing with suspicious folks. Get information on background.

UEFA conference demands U.K. government support

English clubs are back in Europe

PALMEIRA, Portugal (R) — English soccer clubs will be able to return to European competition in the 1990-91 season providing their return is supported by the British government, the European Football Union (UEFA) said on Tuesday.

UEFA President Jacques Georges, who added that a European convention on preventing violence in sport would also have to be adopted.

English clubs were banned from European club competitions in 1985 after the Heysel Stadium disaster in Brussels which claimed 39 lives.

"Having regards to the improvements in security of English football recently, the committee has decided to accept the reintegration of English clubs in European competitions from 1990-1991," Georges told a press conference.

Georges said the decision was unanimous.

"This will take place subject to... the British government giving its support to the English

Football Association," said Georges, who added that a European convention on preventing violence in sport would also have to be adopted.

The ban on English clubs followed the 1985 European Cup final between then-English champions Liverpool and Juventus of Italy at the Heysel Stadium.

The UEFA chief said he planned to meet the British sports minister Colin Moynihan in April next year to finalise details for the planned readmission of the clubs.

Graham Kelly, the English Football Association's (FA) chief executive said: "We are very pleased indeed with the decision and at last there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

"We could not have asked for a more positive decision," he said.

His reaction was echoed by English league president Jack Dunnett, who, with Kelly, had put forward an hour-long case for English clubs' readmission during a closed-door UEFA meeting here.

Dunnett described the ruling as "a victory for English football" and pledged English soccer would continue to work towards eliminating the problem of hooliganism.

Asked about British government reluctance to support immediate readmission, Dunnett said the league had done everything in its power to combat violence but that a hundred per cent guarantee on travelling fans could never be given.

"We cannot put a steel ring around Britain," he said.

Replying to reporters' questions, Georges said the conduct of English fans in Italy next year, should England qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals, would be taken into consideration.

He said that the case of Liverpool, who face an extra ban regardless of the readmission of other English clubs, would be discussed later.

Juventus positive

In Italy, Juventus also welcomed the UEFA decision.

"This is good news," said a club spokesman. "Juventus have always been in favour of English clubs being readmitted and our president has said so several times."

Juventus have been invited to meet English opposition for the first time since the Heysel disaster in a match against a Northern League selection on September 7.

The spokesman said Juventus could not send their first team because of league commitments, but had offered to send their youth side. He said nothing was finalised.

Billy Jean

sizes up '89 circuit — more money, USS spirit

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP) — Billie Jean King and Rosie Casals, who helped pioneer the women's tennis circuit nearly 20 years ago, say players today have many more opportunities, but less camaraderie.

"Now that there is more opportunity and money the players don't stick together as much," said King, who holds 20 Wimbledon titles and ranks fourth on the all-time victory list with 695 wins.

She teamed up with Casals Sunday to beat Virginia Wade and Kerry Reid 8-4 in an exhibition match before the start of the championship match in the \$300,000 Family Circle Magazine Cup tennis tournament.

King, who was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987, said the changes in women's tennis since her reign are "a tradeoff" in terms of positives and negatives.

"The tradeoff is the computer ranking is good because they get rid of the politics," she said. "But the players are insulated today from the fans and the media, they're only concerned about protecting their ranking."

King said that if she, Casals, Kerry Melville-Reid, Peaches Barkowitz, Julie Heldman, Kristy Pigeon, Nancy Richey, Valerie Ziegenfuss and Judy Dalton — the women who formed their own players association in 1973 — had held a similar attitude, the women's circuit might not have gotten off the ground.

Casal, winner of the first Family Circle tournament in 1973, stressed that "part of tennis is entertaining the sponsors and patrons ... and doing clinics and exhibitions."

In 1970, Gladys Heldman, the editor of World Tennis magazine, began a movement to form a separate women's tennis tour with prize money for the players equivalent to that of the men.

EC denounces transfer fees

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European parliament called Tuesday for the abolition of the soccer transfer fee system, describing it as a modern form of slavery.

The 518-member assembly voted in favour of a resolution which also demands an end to the limits in most European Community (EC) countries of two or three foreign players a club.

Jim Janssen Van Raay, the Dutch Euro-MP who drafted the motion, said soccer players should be allowed to move freely from club to club to secure their livelihood.

"This is about the rights of a particular group of workers," Janssen Van Raay told the parliament.

"The sums charged for transfers constitute a modern form of slavery, and a violation of... the free circulation guaranteed by the EC's founding treaties," the motion said. It added that clubs should be entitled to compensation for training players who moved on elsewhere.

The parliament also urged the EC's commission to take legal action against the European Football Union (UEFA) which has rejected previous approaches by the EC.

The parliament has no powers to implement its decision but its

demands may be taken up by the European Commission, which proposes and enforces EC legislation.

Commissioner Martin Bangemann, responsible for the EC's 1992 Single Market programme, said the commission would draw up a professional charter for EC sportsmen in which their rights would be clearly defined.

The 12-nation bloc plans to remove all obstacles to the free movement of goods, people and services by the end of 1992.

Dutch liberal Jessica Larive described the transfer fee system as "a cattle market... where players are bound hand and foot."

But British conservative Dame Shelaigh Roberts, Euro-MP for Southwest London, slammed the

parliament's proposal, saying it could "spell the death of smaller clubs" such as Wimbledon in her own constituency.

"In my country, players are not bought and sold against their will. It's the abuses that should be attacked, not the system destroyed," Roberts said.

The parliament also voted in favour of an amendment condemning UEFA's ban on English soccer clubs as "without legal base and contrary to the free movement of people."

English clubs were banned from playing in Europe after 39 people died in clashes at Brussels' Heysel Stadium at the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool of England and Juventus of Italy.

Chairman says IAAF will give no money prizes

MILAN, Italy (AP) — The International Athletic Federation (IAAF) chairman said Tuesday that the IAAF will not alter its policy against giving prize money despite competition from private race organisers.

Primo Nebiolo conceded that some of the best marathon runners have been drawn away from the IAAF World Marathon Cup scheduled in Milan on Sunday by the rich bonuses given by organisers of marathons in Rotterdam, Boston and London.

"We have the money for challenging private organisers, but IAAF does not want to change its policy for reasons of principle," Nebiolo told a news conference.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
©1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TRUMP CUP TOMMY COMES THOUGH

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ J 6 3
♥ Q 8
♦ A 10 8 5
♣ A K 8 3

EAST
♠ A K 10 5 4 2
♥ Q 8 5 3
♦ Q 9 4 2
♣ J 6 3

SOUTH
♠ 9 8
♥ A J 10 9 4 2
♦ K 7
♣ 10 9 5

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT 2 ♠
2 ♣ 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
As usual, things were not going well with Trump Cup Tommy. He held only his fair share of the cards and, since everything had been splitting fairly normally, he was down 33 points. As our readers know, it is only when trump break badly that Tommy performs like a virtuoso. Finally, this hand came along.

South had less than the law allows for his vulnerable overall at the two-level, but that was vintage Tommy in action. Since a doubleton honor was adequate support on the auction, North had no hesitation in jumping to game.

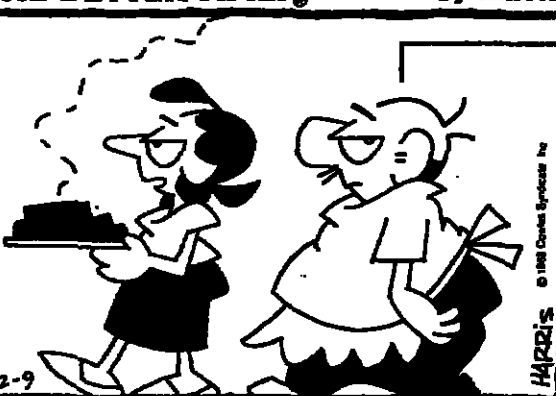
The defense was as good as it could be. West led the king of spades and East followed with the seven. Since that was the lowest outstanding spot-card, it had to be either a singleton or from the queen, so West continued with a low spade. East won and shifted to a club, taken by dummy's king.

Tommy ran the queen of hearts, and then the eight. When West stuffed a spade, Tommy brightened visibly. He cashed the king and ace of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond. A club to the ace served as the entry for another diamond lead. Since ruffing was fruitless, East discarded a club as declarer ruffed.

With eight tricks in the bag and the A J of hearts still in hand, Tommy simply exited with a club. East won, but he was then forced to lead a trump away from K 6 into declarer's tenace. So Tommy was home with six trump tricks and two in each minor suit.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"The worst thing about your cooking is finding a demolition crew to slice the meat loaf."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENSOO

RIPPE

NOOMIK

THRIME



WHAT SHE THOUGHT SHE'D DOWN HER BOYFRIEND'S CAR NEEDED A NEW MUFFLER.

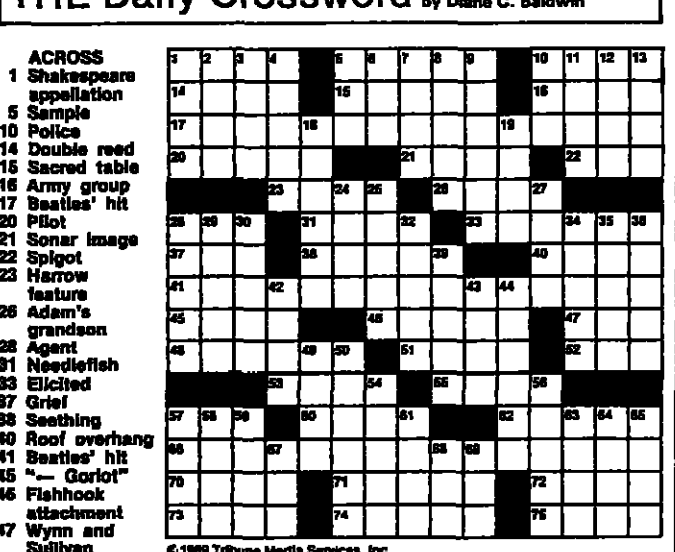
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ENSOORIPPE

Yesterday's Jumble: SLANT HUMAN EQUITY PLAQUE
Answer: Another name for sarcasm—OUP LASH

THE Daily Crossword

by Diana C. Baldwin



ACROSS
1 Shakespearean appellation
5 Sample
14 Double read
15 Sacred table
16 Army group
17 Beatles' hit
20 Pilot
21 Sonar image
22 Spigot
23 Harrow
24 feature
26 Adam's grandson
28 Agent
31 Nettlefish
33 Elicited
37 Grief
40 Roof overhang
41 Beatles' hit
45 "Gorlo"
46 Fishhook attachment
47 Wynn and Sullivan
48 Hemingway
51 Gelsco and Caselle
52 Shelter
53 Gloom
55 Tipplers
57 Broadway hit
60 Space
62 Cream of the crop
63 Beatles' hit
70 Epitaph
71 Singing group
72 Amaz
73 Stroll
74 Dytids
75 Gaseic

DOWN
1 "The — in the Sand"
2 Back
3 Character
4 Removed
5 Marble
6 Kallie and Lopez
7 But
8 Postpone
9 Royal fur
10 Mongrel
11 See 13D
12 — colada
13 Hurry (with 11D)
14 Gaseic
15 Like two peas
16 Post Tassdale
17 Grouches
18 Liliant
19 Fitch
20 Strength
21 Hammer
22 Dictator's aide
23 Sachran
24 Dodge
25 Slow-witted
26 Those who ogle
27 Penury
28 Broad spread
29 Loose
30 overcast
31 Play section
32 Caesar's road
33 Hardy girl
34 Humn's
35 Wapiti
36 Understanding
37 Kgs. and lbs.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Uncertainty clouds SWAPO withdrawal

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — United Nations peacekeepers raised their flags over nine remote border assembly points set up to help South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) fighters withdraw from Namibia to Angola Tuesday after 10 days of fierce battles with South African-led security forces.

"The assembly points have opened, but we have had no reports on whether anyone has reported to them," said U.N. spokesman Anwar Cherif.

He said U.N. officials were aware of reservations voiced by SWAPO about the withdrawal plan negotiated by Angola, Cuba and South Africa last weekend. "We are studying the SWAPO statement and we will try to address the points it raises as soon as possible."

Cherif said Mari Ahtisaari, head of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia (UNTAG), was in touch with U.N. and SWAPO officials in the Angolan capital of Luanda and in

New York in an effort to resolve the differences.

He added, however, that it was up to Angola and not South Africa or the United Nations to persuade SWAPO to comply with the withdrawal plan.

"That is Angola's job. They took it on when they signed the agreement on Sunday," he said. SWAPO Information Secretary Hidiipo Hamutenya said Monday the guerrillas would remain in the Namibian bush until all uncertainties had been clarified.

He said there was confusion over guarantees for withdrawing guerrillas, over how long they had to pull out, where they should report and what would

happen to their weapons.

The guerrillas' appearance in Namibia April 1, the day a ceasefire was to go into effect, touched off several days of fierce fighting and nearly nullified the U.N. accord under which the ceasefire was one step in a year-long independence process.

South Africa maintained the SWAPO guerrillas should have been confined to their bases in Angola starting April 1, but SWAPO leaders say their fighters thought they would be able to surrender to U.N. troops in Namibia that day.

Chief inspector Klerie du Rand of Namibia's paramilitary police reported "a few skirmishes" with guerrillas in the past 24 hours.

Du Rand said casualties in the fighting that broke out April 1, rose to 265 guerrillas and 28 security-force members killed. Thirteen guerrillas have been captured.

"About 10 small groups of three to seven men each have

crossed into Angola since Sunday, but that could be to resupply themselves or to rest," Du Rand said. "There is no indication of any major movement north to the assembly points."

About 1,700 SWAPO fighters are supposed to pull back under U.N. supervision to bases at least 150 kilometres inside Angola under Sunday's plan to revive agreements on Namibia's independence from South Africa.

South Africa's governor in Namibia, Louis Pienaar, said Monday the timetable leading up to independence elections on Nov. 1 had not been affected by the fighting.

But he said the April 1 ceasefire shattered by SWAPO's incursion would not be reinstated until all the armed guerrillas were confirmed to be in Angola.

A U.N. official said about a quarter of the expected 4,650 UNTAG soldiers were in Namibia when the withdrawal offer went into effect at noon Tuesday.



A dead SWAPO guerrilla is tied to a Namibian police armoured vehicle after a fight between guerrillas and police along the Angolan border.

French plane crash kills all 22 aboard

VALENCE, France (Agencies) — Investigators dug through the wreckage of a twin-engine Fokker 27 aircraft Tuesday, finding two black boxes that they hope will shed light on why the plane crashed killing all 22 people aboard.

There was no immediate explanation offered by authorities for what caused the plane to smash against a 100 metres cliff in the forested, mountainous area 25 kilometres east of Valence about 9:10 p.m. (1910 GMT) Monday.

Within a few hours of the crash, rescue workers had recovered the bodies of the 19 passengers and three crew members aboard the Uni-air plane, chartered by Europe Aero Service, en route to Valence from Paris.

The plane broke apart from the impact, spreading wreckage over several hundred metres, police in Valence said.

Bodies of the victims were taken to a nearby chapel for identification, said the police spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Late Tuesday morning, investigators found the two black boxes that might reveal what happened in the final moments of the flight. The flight data recorder will provide authorities with data on instrument readings such as altitude and speed. The cockpit recorder contains in-flight conversation.

Air controllers at the regional centre near Lyon said the pilot, reported no particular problems during his last contact, about eight minutes before the aircraft's scheduled arrival. They said the plane was at about 1,000 metres altitude when it abruptly disappeared from radar.

There was a light fog, a ceiling of about 1,500 metres and fair visibility at the time of the crash.

Anne unmoved by divorce speculation

LONDON (AP) — Princess Anne smiled through a typically busy day of engagements Monday as news that a handsome aide to the queen wrote her personal letters sparked new speculation that her marriage is on the rocks.

As Scotland Yard investigated the theft of the letters from the princess' desk at Buckingham Palace, Britain's tabloids questioned in banner headlines whether Anne's 15-year marriage to fellow equestrian Mark Phillips would survive.

"Can This Marriage Be Saved?" asked the Daily Mail. "Anne Divorce Crisis at Palace," said Today. "Royal Marriage Crisis: Anne Sad, Shattered, Alone," trumpeted the Daily Mirror.

The three principals at the heart of the speculation remained silent on the subject.

Anne, the 38-year-old daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, smiled and appeared in a happy mood as she carried out a busy schedule of activities in northwest England, including opening a £40-million (\$68 million) shopping centre in Liverpool.

Phillips, a 40-year-old commander and former captain in the Queen's Dragoon Guards, spent the day at the couple's Gatcombe Park estate in western England.

Royal navy Commander Timothy Laurence, the 34-year-old bachelor who wrote the stolen letters, was at Windsor Castle, continuing with his normal duties as an equestrian, or aide, to the queen, Buckingham Palace said.

Rumours of trouble in the princess' marriage have circulated since 1981. In recent years, the

princess and her husband have spent up to six months a year apart. On their 15th anniversary last Nov. 15, Anne attended a Buckingham Palace ball while Mark was giving riding lessons in Australia.

She has become the busiest of the royal family, undertaking grueling travels on behalf of children in poverty-stricken and war-torn Third World countries. Phillips has also travelled widely for a variety of business and equestrian interests.

Britain's tabloids have tried to link Anne to a former bodyguard and actor Anthony Andrews, and Mark to one of his stable girls, a Canadian public relations executive and just last week with Pamela Bordes, a former Miss India who worked as a researcher in the House of Commons.

The latest rumours began after the Sun, Britain's largest-circulation tabloid, reported last Thursday that four letters stolen from Anne had been sent anonymously to the paper and turned over to Scotland Yard.

After a Sunday newspaper told Buckingham Palace it was going to name the letter-writer, the palace identified Laurence, who served on the royal yacht Britannia before becoming a top aide to the queen. It described him as a friend of the princess' but refused to disclose the contents.

The Daily Mirror, which called the letters "highly personal," said Monday that the princess had visited Laurence's home in Winchester at least half a dozen times, sometimes with her two children, Peter, 11 and Zara, 7.



Noboru Takeshita

Takeshita reverses Recruit denial

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita Tuesday reversed his previous denial of receiving money from a company at the centre of a major scandal, acknowledging he received 130 million yen (about \$1 million).

"I am feeling my political and moral responsibilities very strongly," he said Tuesday before parliament's budget committee. "I think it is important to settle this matter legally and politically as soon as possible."

But Takeshita refused opposition demands that he resign. Takeshita said in the Diet last October: "I have never received funds... from Recruit."

Tuesday, responding to opposition charges that he had reversed his earlier statements, Takeshita said: "I do not remember the details of my statement, but I probably did not have a clear recollection of the matter then."

The admissions followed a series of news reports since last week linking Takeshita to Recruit.

"I am aware the Recruit scandal is the most serious matter I have ever experienced in the 38 years of my political career," he said in a nationally televised session of the parliament's budget committee. "Political reform is essential to overcome the current situation and restore public trust in politics."

Takeshita said Recruit and its subsidiaries donated a total of about 130 million yen (about \$1 million) between 1985 and 1987 to his political support groups in the form of donations and purchases of fund-raising party tickets while he was finance minister and secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The prime minister said the funds were handled strictly as political donations. He denied opposition party claims that they were bribes.

"We do get a lot of sex education in school. We get it both in biology and in social science classes. It's good," said Maria Levda, a 16-year-old high school student in Stockholm. "They occasionally give us whole day seminars just on

Madrid breaks off talks with ETA after attacks

MADRID (R) — Prospects for an end to Basque violence collapsed when the Spanish government broke off talks with separatist guerrillas after a series of attacks, including a letter-bomb mailed to a senior official.

The booby-trapped letter was defused at the residence of Julen Elgorriaga, the government's representative in the Basque region. It was the first direct attack on a senior official in many months.

"ETA's attitude... causes the government to regard dialogue with ETA as closed," Interior Minister Jose Luis Corcuera told journalists Monday after briefing political parties on peace efforts.

It was the first time the government had said the talks were closed. Until then, Madrid had made clear it was still hoping the dialogue would continue.

Officials said ETA has sent the letter two days after declaring "all its battlefronts open."

Talks were suspended after ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) accused the government of going back on a pledge to negotiate a political settlement and offered only technical means, such as individual pardons, for ETA to give up the fight.

Some 600 people have been killed during ETA's campaign for an independent Basque state in the once prosperous northern region. The Basque region has now one of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

180 ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) guerrillas are held.

At the weekend seven bombs went off along the railway line linking Victoria in the Basque country to Pamplona in neighbouring Navarre, causing no injuries but destroying electricity pylons and generating stations. All the bombs contained an explosive ETA has used in previous attacks.

Police defused three more bombs along the line, which connects with the Madrid-France railway link.

ETA and the government held talks two years ago but they were unsuccessful and this year's talks were the first to have yielded a unilateral truce by the guerrillas, giving strong hopes of peace in the Basque country where ETA has been waging a 21-year-old guerrilla warfare.

ETA accused the government of going back on a pledge to negotiate a political settlement to the conflict. The government ruled out political concessions and only offered technical means, such as individual pardons, for ETA to give up the fight.

Some 600 people have been killed during ETA's campaign for an independent Basque state in the once prosperous northern region. The Basque region has now one of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

High-tech heists spark U.S. alarm

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Late-night assaults by teams of masked, heavily armed bandits may be a hint of the high-tech crime of the next decade. The crooks aren't after money — their target is computer chips.

Five such robberies at Orange County, California, companies in six months have authorities concerned about a new breed of bandit as bold and brazen as jewel thieves, yet interested only in the tiny components that give computers their brains.

"When you think about the size of the chip and the value, the loss can be pretty significant to a company. A person can walk off with a bag of chips that can have more value than diamonds or other gems," said Bruce Baker of Stanford Research Institute, a think tank that keeps tabs on computer crimes.

So far, the attacks have been limited to Orange County, between Los Angeles and San Diego. Authorities in other high-tech areas like Boston, Dallas, San Diego and San Francisco report no similar thefts, though all have had employees stealing chips from employees.

Yet some authorities fear the

high-tech crime wave is bound to grow.

"This is the crime of the 1990s," said Los Angeles County deputy district attorney Tony Castaneda, who is prosecuting three men for reprogramming \$1 chips for use in cellular telephones and reselling them for \$100 each.

"This is high-technology stuff. It's the type of crime that's going to be prevalent in the 1990s, more sophisticated, more technological."

In the most recent Orange County incident, four men in dark clothing and totting machine guns, an assault rifle and a .45-caliber pistol struck advanced Logic Research at 10:30 p.m. March 3, sticking a gun to a guard's head, the masked intruders demanded entry to the computer company in Irvine just days after it was in the news for developing a new computer.

Nothing was stolen in the attack. "Two cleaning women ran upstairs and locked themselves in a room and screamed," said David Kirkey, vice president of sales and marketing. "The gunmen ran out."

As a school doctor, Strandel was occasionally confronted by 13-year-olds asking for contraceptives. Her response was to urge the girl to discuss the matter with her mother, but this was not seen as a condition for giving the girl the pill.

"If a young girl needs an abortion, the law says you are not to contact her parents if she doesn't agree. The same with contraceptives," she said. "Maybe we respect the child as an individual more than in other countries," she said.

COLUMN 10

Bridge stunt causes chaos

BRISTOL, England (R) — A climbing stunt by members of a daredevil club trying to climb down the huge Severn Bridge caused multiple car crashes, jammed traffic and made a rescue helicopter take off. Police said distracted drivers collided in two pile-ups — one involving seven cars, the other four — and a woman was injured Sunday as four members of the Britain's Dangerous Sports Club slid 65 metres down ropes to a speedboat waiting on the River Severn. The crashes backed up traffic for eight kilometres, waiting to cross the suspension bridge which links England and Wales. An air force helicopter was scrambled after first reports that the climbers had fallen into the river. Police said other members of the club, which specialises in hazardous activities, cheered on the climbers from the bridge. One watcher wore a gorilla suit, the others dinner jackets.

Customs seize Minelli's dog

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish customs officials have seized entertainer Liza Minelli's dog, charging she brought it into Sweden illegally, a customs official said. Minelli was forced to send her cairn terrier to Paris early Tuesday, while she stayed on to perform, a customs official said. She reportedly brought the dog, named Lilly, with her on a private bus in which she travelled from the Netherlands. "Liza is guilty of smuggling and the case will be taken to court as in all other cases where someone tries to smuggle animals to Sweden," customs inspector Stig Thelberg told the AP. Minelli, in Sweden on a world tour with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., was not immediately available for a comment. Dogs brought to Sweden must be put in quarantine for four months for fear of rabies. Minelli was visited by customs officials at her Stockholm hotel the day after her arrival Sunday. Normally the dog would have been taken to quarantine, but after negotiations with Minelli, Lilly was put under custody of customs officials at the hotel while Minelli arranged to have her pet sent abroad.

Baker pleads innocent

ABERDEEN, South Dakota (AP) — A baker accused of putting garlic powder in doughnuts on his last day of work has pleaded innocent to charges of intentional damage to property. Kenny Filler, 26, entered the plea Tuesday and has asked for a jury trial. No date has been set. The incident at Ken's Fairway, which occurred last July, was discovered when customers began returning kuchen, doughnuts and other baked goods. Damage was estimated at \$900. Filler is accused of putting garlic powder in doughnut dough and muffin batter, mixing salt into the sugar and sabotaging other mixes. Employees at the bakery said Filler had quit and was not fired, but refused to comment further on the incident because of the pending trial.

British actors raise funds for comedian

LONDON (R) — A charity benefit Sunday raised £100,000 (\$170,000) for ailing British comedy actor Terry-Thomas, a victim of Parkinson's disease, organisers said. Terry-Thomas, star of the 1960s comedy films "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" and "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines," was too ill to attend the show in a London theatre. British show business celebrities decided to hold the benefit after newspapers published photographs of the 77-year-old actor looking emaciated and huddling in a blanket in a rundown London apartment.

Sweden's sex education — is moralising beginning to spoil it?

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — For 40 years, Sweden has brought up its children to learn about, discuss and eventually practise sex without guilt or embarrassment.

But some educationalists now fear that a new and unwanted element is creeping into the curriculum as a result of the country's anti-AIDS campaign — moralising.

"Our AIDS campaign is very condom-fixated. It makes it almost impossible to use a condom," said Anna Strandel, chief medical officer at the Swedish National Board of Education.

"If too much moralising comes into the campaign,

then the pupils switch off," she told Reuters.

She fears that some may already be switching off. Abortions and teenage pregnancies, which had been falling steadily for years in Sweden, both took an upward turn in 1985.

The number of abortions has risen from around 33,000 to 38,000 a year, with most of the increase coming from teenagers. Swedish legislation provides for free abortion on demand.

A complete lack of moralising has been one of the proudest boasts of the compulsory sex education in this country with a reputation for sexual freedom.

It begins at age seven when

children are introduced to topics like the structure and function of the sex organs, menstruation, masturbation, sexual intercourse, contraceptives, conception, pregnancy and childbirth.

"What makes our sex education so good is that we don't moralise about how young people ought to behave," said Margot Blum, a senior education ministry official.

As they reach their teens, far from telling young people not to have sex, Swedish schools assume that many of them will, and even provide them with contraceptives.

"It's no good telling teenagers 'Don't do it' as they do in the United States or example.

They will do it anyway," said Strandel.

"It's better to recognise that there is sexual activity within the group and discuss it openly," she said.

Foreign educationalists who have looked at the Swedish curriculum have reacted with a mixture of admiration and horror. Many say they wish they could follow the Swedish example, but the moral climate in their countries would never permit it.

Positive view

Strandel said it was important to begin instruction well before puberty to give children a positive view of sex. "We want them to have a

positive attitude fixed before the age when we have to start telling them about the negative side — sexual diseases and how to prevent them. This side should come to the fore when they are beginning to become sexually active," she said.

Because children mature at different ages, the same material is gone over again and again. That means a lot of sex education throughout a pupil's school life.

"We do get a lot of sex education in school. We get it both in biology and in social science classes. It's good," said Maria Levda, a 16-year-old high school student in Stockholm. "They occasionally give us whole day seminars just on

sex. Kids trust them and know they can go to school clinics to get contraceptives if they need them," she said.

The system appears to work. Despite the recent increase, Swedish teenage pregnancy and abortion levels are still only a third of those in the United States and among the lowest in Europe.

And the age at which Swedish girls first have sex has risen by a year since 1980. The average debut age is now seventeen and a half.

"My feeling is that this is another sign of success showing that teenagers don't feel pushed to have sex," said Blum. "We try to strengthen self-

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	20	25	Cloudy
ATHENS	10	20	77 Clear
BAHRAIN	20	28	81 Clear
BANGKOK	27	31	88 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	10	20	68 Clear
Cairo	17	32	90 Clear
CHICAGO	06	18	64 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	07	15	59 Clear
FRANKFURT	10	14	57 Cloudy
GENEVA	08	15	59 Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	28	81 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	08	18	64 Cloudy
LONDON	08	12	54 Rain
LOS ANGELES	16	21	73 Clear
MADRID	05	15	59 Cloudy
MEXICO	17	28	82 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	27	80 Cloudy
MONTREAL	03	27	81 Cloudy
MOSCOW	04	30	86 Clear
NEW DELHI	19	36	97 Clear
NEW YORK	04	10	50 Cloudy
PARIS	08	15	59 Cloudy
ROME	08	21	68 Cloudy
TOKYO	13	19	66 Clear
VIENNA	08	20	68 Clear